

THANK

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
Chaplain Section, 60 Gen Depot  
A.P.O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

Sept. 27, 1951

everybody:

In Pusan on a visit and here I can pick up some news. I got real news myself on arrival to the effect that the ship with my Jeep Station Wagon into port and for the past 24 hours I have been indulging in the luxury of private transportation. What a difference it makes, and tomorrow the buggy will be transported to the island where it will be of inestimable help in getting around to the compounds. I've been having difficulty getting Communion cups enough for World Communion Sunday. We will need about 2,000 and the local stocks of paper cups are depleted and glass or metal cups are out of the question. These ingenious POW's can make trays out of cast-off cans but small cups in great numbers is beyond them. Here are some scoops. The word from Taegu is that the new seminary has 500 students. Imagine that. Where they'll live and where class rooms will be found is a mystery. The two larger churches there are being used for class rooms for the presbytery and regular classes, and the Adams house over on the other side of the valley from the compound is being pressed into dormitory use. The Taegu Christians have given the money to build three new buildings on the land beside the Adams house and that will make a nice site for a seminary. Word also came today that Stan Soldau is arriving Saturday from America by air. No details about the auspices under which he is coming or how long he will be here or what he plans to do other than meet the Korean leaders whom he knows and who all know him. I did hear that some Memphis churches had made the trip financially possible. Permission has been granted for Helen and Catherine Mackenzie daughters of the Australian Dr. Mackenzie to come to Korea. Helen is an M.D. and Catherine is a nurse. This morning Dr. Abernathy, Southern Baptist, who was in Seoul a short while before the Red attack last year, turned up and told us of the Baptists' plans. He was in China and has apparently been able to persuade his Board to get busy here. He has acquired a large property here in Pusan, sufficient to make three apartments on the second floor, with space for both a church and a dispensary on the first. A doctor and a nurse are arriving soon from America with more to follow and another ordained man is on his way. Abernathy reported distributing \$20,000.00 in "rehabilitating" 18 Baptist churches in the past four months. I didn't know there were that many Baptist congregations around but there must be. This new property occupies nearly a city block, and its all the more surprising how easily the Baptists acquired it for the Methodists are still without a place here after all these months although I heard today they have just about reached a decision about a house. Abernathy said the Korean Government helped them find the property a former Japanese establishment. John Underwood has been assigned to both Chung Ju and Seoul (Quite a parish!), and he is now teaching 21 hours a week in the Chung Ju Institute where they have 70 students. The Korean pastors make up the faculty. Three middle school groups, KyungSin (John D. Wells), Sung Sil (Pyeng Yang), and Te Kwang ( Han Kyung Chik's Seoul School), are apparently ready to unite in one boys' middle school here in Pusan, and similarly three girls' schools. Chung Sin (Seoul), Sung Ee, (P.Y. and Po Sung (Byun Chun) are going together under the leadership of Kim Pil Ae of Chung Sin. Dr. Li Yawng Sul of Severance dropped in this morning and I garnered the following from him: Severance Hospital in Seoul is in pretty good condition. A direct hit left a hole in the roof and nearly all the windows are out but it can be readily put back into shape. One of the armies, either American or British, occupied the hospital after the recapture of Seoul and when they left took all the beds, tables, just about everything with ~~wix~~ them which of course is to be expected in war. UNKRA (United Nations Korea Rehabilitation Agency) successor to E.C.A. (Marshall Plan) is on the job and unofficial promises have been given by Sir Arthur Rucker in charge that when the rehabilitation gets

going Severence will be the first on the list of the Seoul hospitals. This is after Sir Arthur had visited all the Seoul hospitals. At present there is only one doctor and three laborers at Severence doing as much as that many men could do in the way of medicine and guarding the property. Dr. M. S. Kim who used to usher at the Seoul Foreign Church is in charge of the Happy Mountain Orphanage Hospital in Pusan, an institution started by an army chaplain, equipped with X-rays, etc., given by Masonic and other groups. M. S. Kim is Vice Pres. of Severence. Severence also has a hospital on Ku jah do where they have been a great blessing to the thousands of refugees but at present there is considerable pressure being exerted for this hospital group to go to Tae Jun (Tai den), and Yi Yawng Sul was on his way to both places to try and reach a decision on the move. Another Severence Hospital is operating at Wun Ju, a temporary institution with about 40 workers that treats about 50 patients a day and then sends them by train to Taegu for further treatment. Yi said there were no plans to move Severence back to Seoul before next Spring. Oh yes, almost forgot, word is that Otto De Camp will be back here soon. I heard the date of his arrival in Japan and from there he join the ranks of husbands who forsake wives, sons, daughters, and property and come to the land of the Morning Calm. And I should add that he will be another who will receive a hundred fold more of everything in this life and also in the life to come. These husbands are a lonely crew with pictures of families brightening otherwise dull walls and shelves but not a one of them would be anywhere else. As chaplain put it this is where the important things in the world today are happening and if a man wants to have a part in settling the significant issues of the day he's got to be here and stay here. A number of recently captured prisoners have turned up at the camp and the other day I had conversation with two of them. Numbers are restricted information but you'll be interested to know that nearly ten percent of the bunch that entered the compound were in church the next Sunday morning. These two particular fellows came from the far northeast and northwest corners of the country. The fellow from near Oi Ju got his training in Manchuria. I raised the question of transportation with them, how they got from Manchuria and from near the Russian border in N. E. Korea. Answer, "We walked!" And you know where the line is nowadays. Quite a few of them surrendered. They said broadcasts were made to them from planes to laydown their arms and be at peace and they were delighted at the treatment in the Camp. They said they were nearly starved and that things were most difficult up north. Aside from the old men all men of the churches were tied up and marched off, "Where?" "We don't know". The younger ones into the army I suppose. This past week one of the compounds with several thousand POWs put on an athletic meet and I was among the invited guests. As the show progressed the American officers were unanimous in their praise of the ambition, the ingenuity and the organization of it. Whistles were blown and out came a managerie, lions, dragons, monkeys, giants - 8 feet high and four feet wide. clowns, imps, African bushman. Each batallion had its orchestra. The races were not only fast but novel, some no American had ever seen. For example five men with men standing in back of each other had their left legs all roped together and the rights together, and then teams of these five races, requiring great skill. Runners raced to a place where they picked up names of spectators to run around the track and one fellow came yelling for me. He made me run so fast I was stiff for two days. The rate of exchange now is ~~12,500~~ 12,500 won for a dollar, that is that's what we get from the Korean bank.

Cordially

Harold.

( The jeep Station wagon mentioned is a gift from Youth For Christ through Bob Pierce. Ed)

Miller ✓  
Shaw ✓  
Byrnes ✓  
Chambers ✓  
Lewis ✓

Chaplain Section, 80 Gen. Depot  
A. P. O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

October 1, 1951

Dear Everybody:

I haven't been over to the mainland, to Pusan, for some time and I cannot therefore give you any of the more general developments. Being limited to the POW Camp here my range of information is definitely circumscribed. But there is much to interest those who have a place ~~far~~ in their hearts for the evangelization of the throngs of men here. From my letter last week you'll recall that we postponed the Bible Correspondence Course graduation ceremonies until this week and with the aid of an amplifier we had wonderful times. I always wish you all could be here to see how "apostolic" the turn-outs are. The POWs gather by the thousands, sit down on the ground and listen intently to what we have to say. The ceremonies consisted of Gospel songs, prayer, an address, the awarding of the diplomas, the distribution of prizes (English-Japanese dictionaries, fountain pens, books in Japanese on Bible subjects, and lead pencils), and greetings from the officer in charge of the compound. I never know of course what these men are going to say and most of them are not accustomed to giving addresses to Christian groups, and a POW audience is something novel in itself. The remarks are usually brief and one man stressed this idea, "We meet here not as POW'S and a commanding officer, but as Christians. I salute you as a brother in Christ"ect., that was intensely significant, of course. Another commander made an out and out appeal, "I am glad to see so many of you embracing Christianity, and to those who are Christians I hope you'll be winning someone else, one by one, to the Saviour". A representative of each graduating ~~class~~ group was asked to give a "DAPSA", make a response after the sermon, and in general they were to this effect. "We're deeply grateful for the privilege of studying the Bible while in the camp. It's true that physically we are prisoners, but through Christ we have true spiritual liberty. Our hope is that having ~~learned~~ learned considerable about the Bible through the study of this course we will be enabled to live it out in worthy actions here". My, but I was pleased and grateful. In one compound a number of old men over 60 turned up and I had two of them sing, "Yes, Jesus Loves Me" as part of the service. They did it credibly and the crowd was greatly interested in seeing the old fellows up front holding their own. A Total of 257 graduated, 316 took the exams but we figured it it would be wise to have 59 of them repeat. I quote these numbers to show you that we are trying to maintain standards. And let me tell you that marking the papers and deciding the prizes for the graduates in each compound was a time-consuming job. And now we're all ready to enroll a new batch in the New Testament course and begin the Old Testament. The delay in the arrival of the O. T.s is the only thing holding us up. The working of the Holy Spirit is fascinating to watch here. Because flare-ups a few weeks ago the Christians were removed ( for their own protection) from some of the compounds, and in two of them this is what has happened. One day in visiting where no Christians were supposed to be , a POW came out and asked, "Can't you have someone come here and hold services?" "Why", I said, "I understood there were no Christians here anymore". (We'd planned to get back but hadn't had time). "Oh, there are a number here". And when a service was announced 41 turned up. This afternoon I went to a compound to which four Christians had returned after all of them had previously been removed: a hundred were present and one of the four reminded me, "These are all new Christians, speak simply to them". Amazing, isn't it? The Chinese put on a field day this week and it was tops, dragon dances, animal shows, a first class carnival, and the outfits were improvised out of next to nothing. What ingenuity these fellows have and how tirelessly they work away. The costumes were wonderfully artistic and varied, all kinds of stuff.

Yours Harold.

Miller ✓  
Shaw ✓  
Byers  
Chambers  
Lewis

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
Chaplain Section, 60 Gen. Depot  
A.P.O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco Calif.

Oct. 7, 1951

Dear Everybody:

From this date you will recognize this as World Wide Communion Sunday, and we decided to observe it here in our POW congregations. It has been a historic day, one of the happiest in my life, and I'm sure I'll never forget it. It makes me increasingly grateful for the joy of this ministry. Here are some details; after the heat and vacations of the summer we felt it was time for another Bible Correspondence Course graduation and tentatively arranged for graduation ceremonies in each compound for the last Sunday in September and the communion Service today, the first Sunday of the month. But we soon discovered that holding the examinations of the Cor. Course is a terrific job. After all it covers the whole New Testament and a student can't be expected to carry chapter subjects and leading verses, numbers of parables and miracles, of all 27 books in his head for one grand, comprehensive test. So, we have divided the 12 sections of the course into four parts and hold the four successive examinations in every compound which are less now but when we started numbered 20. In other words conducting the exams meant holding 80 different ones, and it was not only a terrific job giving the exams but marking them. The later of course was delegated to the Korean pastors. We soon saw that we'd never get through by the end of September and so planned to combine the graduation with the Communion Service. But then there were other complications, namely, the necessity for getting busy on catechumen and baptism exams took time away from the Cor. Course. Those of you who've been in Korea know that we usually give the Cat. exams individually when possible and then by twos when ~~and~~ necessary. Therefore when we found that in one church we had nearly 300 cat. and 80 bap. exams we were stumped for a whole Presbytery of pastors would be necessary to do the thorough questioning the job demanded. So, to ~~save~~ save time and effort and get the work done we decided to give written cat. and bap. exams and even that kept us going days. Also we had to figure on about 2,000 communicants and to get trays and cups for that many was impossible as far as standard equipment was concerned. But a POW camp is an ideal place for improvisation and ingenuity. We simply passed the word on to some of the POW church leaders and they in turn got their friends in the respective compound carpenter's shops busy and yesterday evening, right on schedule, we had 15 trays with a capacity for 50 cups each delivered to us. They had previously produced 3,000 paper cups, a plentiful supply, and by refilling the trays our needs were easily met. When it came to the bread, the staff chaplain here helped out with five large boxes of Jewish motsa, the unleavened crackers, ideal for our use. What a day! We had a total of 237 baptisms and 573 catechumens. It was my great joy to baptize 80 and establish 250 as catechumens, a glorious experience for one day. Oh, it was a precious a soul-stirring time, and as I laid my hand on their heads I wondered how many of them might be called upon to suffer greatly for the Lord Jesus in the days ahead. Now please pray for them that God will keep them true and that leaders may be raised up out of these men to evangelize this land for God. Recently we had a visit by Gen. Van Fleet, 8th Army Commander. As he entered a compound he heard a group singing and walked over to hear them. Highly pleased and recognizing it as a hymn he inquired, "Are you Catholic or Protestant?" "Who is the leader" The POW stepped out. "Are you a Pastor or a layman?" "A layman." "You're doing good work and I hope you can get 5,000 singing this way". The hymn the POWs were singing was, "Pass Me Not Oh Gentle Saviour". My Korean Pastor asked me for candles, there was no illumination in their homes. An hour later I opened a package from Claire Bruen that was filled with candles only slightly used!!! Drs. Scott and Frazier, Canadians are arriving on the island tomorrow to visit their Hamheung refugees' friends here.

Cordially,  
Harold

Chaolain Harold Voelkel  
Chaplain Section, 60 Gen Depot  
A.P.O.59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California.

October 21, 1951

*Please do not  
divert from order given*  
*Business*  
*C.A. Clark - 509 So 15 - Muskogee Okla*  
*RK Smith Exclusion Spgs Mo.*

Dear Friends:

I've been reading Moffett's Translation of the N. T. lately and I'd like to quote Romans 8:28 from which I've received a great blessing:

"We know also that those who love God, those who have been called in terms of His purpose, Have His aid and interest in everything."

What a promise for these days to be assured that we have God's help and concern in EVERYTHING. I've just been to Pusan and back and I think I'll give you some news items I picked up there. Bill Shaw is back as a member of the Methodist Mission, having resigned his chaplaincy in the army. He was occupying the former Japanese house the Methodists bought. It is a little further from the center of town than the Presbyterian house and is two story whereas the latter is single story. There's a yard with space enough to park cars. Charlie Sauer is remaining on at the Australian house for a little while since he has an office built in the basement. Drs. Scott and Frazer, Canadians, are at the Australians together ~~with~~ with Geroge Fitch and the new Y. M. C. A. man whose name I've forgotten. And also Henry Appenzeller, Church World Service representative. The two Holiness young fellows, Ed Kilbourne and Paul Haines are temporarily at the Presby. House, not fully decided whether to go on with the Holiness Seminary in Pusan or try to move it to Seoul. As long as Pusan remains the "Capitol", the home of the President, Legislature, American Embassy, etc., students and others prefer to stay on. Scott and Frazer returned from Seoul the day I met them and they passed on these experiences. They rode on the G.I. train free, from Pusan to Seoul, a twelve hour trip from 7 PM to 7 AM the next morning, in a comfortable lower berth. From the Seoul Station they walked to the Methodist Chung Dong compound where they expected to find L. A. Anderson formerly of Song-Do, but he wasn't there and they then started walking to the Presby. Yung Dong compound. Street cars run from East Gate only as far as the street leading to the Capitol building. There at 8 in the morning they got on a car that had only about 10 passengers. Now for anyone who has seen the packed street cars in Seoul with the block-long cues of people waiting, this is a forceful commentary on the fewness of the people in Seoul. In making reservations to return to Pusan they learned that the train had been delayed getting to Seoul that day due to an attack between Taiku and Taejun (Taiden) by guerrillas who burned a police box and tore up rails at a small station. But what Seoul may lack in population is made up in Taejun where before the war there were 130,000 people but now there are 200,000 and this is the city you'll remember that was almost totally destroyed. The churches there report big gains, some as high as 300% increases. An orphanage has been started there in connection with the union project of Methodists, Salvation Army, Southern and Northern Presbyterians. Boyer of the Southern Mission besides itinerating his country churches, carrying on Soon Chun Station alone, gets up to Taejun for a visit from time to time to "help fill in his days". The Civil Assistance Corps of the U. S. Army is starting a rehousing project in Taejun, giving lumber and cement to a family wishing to build a house if the family will follow the C. A. C. plans and put up a million and a half Won. As yet only 40 families have signed up, whereas 400 were expected to do so. The house is a very practical design, very much like the house the mission built on our Yung Dong compound for the Adams' chauffeur. Mr. Crothers has become a big-time operator. The story is that the army was tearing up down a wooden bridge (for what purpose I don't know - to put up a concrete one I suppose) and Mr. C. got approval to make the lumber available for churches. He borrowed the Taegu big truck and 30 truck loads of lumber, much of it new, was obtained.

Arch Campbell has gone into the orphanage business adding that to his other

varied responsibilities. Bob Pierce gave seven million Wun for an orphanage in memory of his father and Arch has had a very neat new building erected on the Taegu road that leads out past the leperosarium, and the encouraging thing about it is that a Military Police outfit, U. S. Army is under writing the financial support of it. This group of G. I.'s have taken on the orphanages in Seoul, Pusan and Taegu. And a group of Masons in the U. S. Army are supporting the Eden orphanage, also in Taegu. G. I.s are generous, aren't they? While in the Pusan army chapel a chaplain came in looking for Charlie Stokes with the announcement that his men had given \$1,300.00 to rebuild a church building that had been destroyed in Charlie's area. As yet Stanley Soltau hasn't arrived and we surmise the delay is due to difficulty in getting clearance from the authorities in Japan. Dr. George Buttrick, the New York Madison Ave. Church pastor who was to visit Korea was likewise prevented from coming because he couldn't get the green-light from the army authorities in Tokyo. Its interesting how some do and some don't get permission. For a few weeks now a Youth for Christ man, Everett Swanson, Swedish Baptist has been over here holding meetings among both Koreans and G. I.s. He rode in a railroad gondola freight car part of the way to Seoul. He wrote me about coming to the POW Camp in a letter dated August 18th from Osaka which I received recently, some delay! Have I mentioned previously that Chosen Christian University is carrying on in tents on the island of Yung Do, part of Pusan City? They have 400 students. The Southern Presbyterians have opened up the Kwang Ju hospital after its being closed for over ten years. Dr. Herbert Coddington and Mrs Bruce Cummings, nurses, are the two missionaries on the job. Bruce Cumming, the husband, is with me here in POW work. John Talmadge of Mokpo turned up at the presbyterian House while I was there and reported 150 in His Bible Institute, 300 in the girl's middle school, and 400 refugees living on the compound. Here in the POW Camp we've been able to get back to our large outdoor meetings. For quite a time with the examinations for the catechumenate and baptism and correspondence course we've been tied down to the congregations, but with the exams over we started out on general meetings and the attention and response was most encouraging. When I got them to reciting Scripture I asked a fellow when he had learned the verse and he replied, "A year ago in Inchun!" That's something for a POW who as yet has not lined up with the church to remember a verse of Scripture a year. How well the POWs are looking these days. I heard of a funnyone the other day. When a mother learned how much her boy in the camp here was getting to eat, she sent word not to try and get released for he was getting so much more to eat here than he would in society. Some days ago I got a letter from Mr. Crothers asking me to look up an Andong boy. I went to the record section and they had difficulty finding his card and while looking for another man's record a fellow looked over my shoulder and asked, "Who is it you're looking for?" and it turned out that he was the Andong fellow, working right there in the office. What a coincidence! The Camp authorities have decided to name a medical building after Gerald Martin. The ceremony will be held next Friday and I'll have the details for you next week. He was most highly thought of and his colleagues can't do enough to show their appreciation of his work and of his fine spirit. We have the following new enrollments for the Bible Course, 529 N. T., 555 O. T. Keep praying everybody, that the work done here may be through and genuine, that these fellows be encouraged and strengthened in their faith and kept true to their dedication. Today I learned of a hundred new believers in one of the compounds. Its a terrific responsibility to train these men and get them established in the Word. We are counting on you all standing by us.

Cordially,

Harold

millers ✓  
Sharobas ✓  
Bruens ✓  
Chambers  
c.a. Clark  
R.K. Smith

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
Chaplain Section, 60 Gen Depot  
A.P.O. 59 c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

October 30, 1951

Dear Everybody:

Back in Pusan to meet Otto De Camp just arrived from Japan and States. He joins the group of family-less husbands here. With him he brought a Jeep Station wagon and a supply of audio-visual aid material with more to come. One of the really fine things that I'd wondered about many times but just now saw for the first time is a Coleman kerosine projector, a projector attached to the side of an ordinary Coleman lamp that will permit us to show films in country churches that have no electricity. He has a mobile unit coming, a Jeep station wagon outfitted completely with the audio-visual equipment. Otto is letting me have a Coleman projector and colored slides of Biblical subjects, both Old and New Testament for use in the POW Camps. With long winter evenings it will be a source of great interest and instruction to the Christians. Also here at Presbyterian house are Petrie Mitchell, Southern Presbyterian newly arrived (returning) who brought a generous amount of baggage, supplies of one kind and another. He loaded the Kwang Ju truck up yesterday afternoon and left at dawn this morning. We knew that he'd be clearing out early so that when a knock on the door during the night was heard we figured it was Mitchell's Korean chauffer getting him up, but on the contrary it was Arch Campbell arriving late and unannounced from Taegu. Time--One o'clock, so back to sleep and then more rousements when Mitchell got off. The two Holiness missionaries, Ed Kilbourne and Paul Haines are here looking for a house to buy in Pusan among other things. At present their seminary is operating in Tong Ney, suburb of Pusan, with 85 men and a women's seminary at Masan, about 25. As soon as they can they want to move both schools up to Seoul where their property that was quite badly damaged has been repaired. Another guest is John Hill, Christian missionary, so with Harry Hill you can appreciate that we are a crowded household but of course comfortable and congenial with no less humor and laughter than usually characterizes missionary groups. And prayer fellowship too, for the seriousness of the times drives us to God as never before. Campbell is the Theological Seminary president nowadays and as a Princeton alumnus began comparing his Taegu institution with his alma mater and reached the conclusion that the Taegu Sem. is better than Princeton, first because its bigger, more students, the Taegu president teaches more classes than Princeton's etc. etc.; in the intimidable Campbell style. Han Kyung Jik dropped in to tell us of his trip to Seoul. The Yung Nak church refugees originally from north Korea who are now refugeeing for the second time in the south, is divided into three groups, about 800 in Seoul worshipping in the fine new church, about 1,000 here in Pusan meeting in an orphanage (half the congregation outside), and 400 in Taegu. Besides having his flock scattered Han begins teaching for a month and a half in the Taegu Seminary, so he was over to discuss preparations for winter since the half of the congregation that has been meeting out in the yard of the orphanage here in Pusan will have to come indoors with the approach of winter. So, what should he do asked Han. Are the Cease-Fire talks going to get anywhere? Is there a prospect of Seoul people returning? To which we had no information to give, any more than anybody else. "All we know is what we read in the newspapers." Han reported being able to buy 800 panes of glass and some tile to repair his beautiful Seoul Church which is now completely restored. Dr. Murry and Ada Sandell have arrived and will be coming over to Kuh Jay Do to look over the place with the possibility of opening a medical work there since the majority of the refugees there are from the Ham Kyung province. Real cooperation denominationally is being manifested these days. Buelah Burns, nurse, Canadian is working in the southern Presby. hospital at Chun Ju and two Methodist medical women Miss Flornece Piper and Miss Thelma Maw are enroute to Kwang Ju to help get the S. Pres. hospital there opened. Serious news for Church World Service has come, that their export license that expires November 17th will not be renewed.

In other words they will not be able to ship clothing from America to Korea. The explanation given is that 67 other organizations such as the Red Cross, C A R E , etc., have protested that since they are not permitted to operate here neither should the C.W. S. An Army Agency Civil Assistance Corps is the official agency to handle all the clothing, food, and other distributions. Henry Appenzeller is the C.W.S. man and after November 17th can busy himself with financial aid to church related groups. That's always in order! Plenty for everybody to do here. The Methodists begin a General Conference November 1st which will be significant, in fact already is. Margaret Billingsley, former missionary now a Board secretary is here for it as is Bishop Moore, the former Southern Methodist Church. He is a well known man in the Orient and has a wide acquaintance in China, Japan, and Korea as a result of his years of service here. I had the pleasure of sitting next to him at luncheon today and he shared some interesting experiences with us. He told of visiting General Minami when the Japanese war lord was Governor General of Korea and during the conversation the General spoke a number of times of the fine work the Methodists were doing in Korea. Fine people, the Methodists, etc. This was shortly before the war when the Japs were giving us a bad time so the Bishop decided to confront the General with a fact or two and asked how it was in view of the fine work the Methodists were doing that the meeting from which the Bishop had just come had 12 policemen watching them. "Oh", replied Minami, "The Presbyterians have been acting so rascally, the Methodists have to suffer in the consequences". The Bishop enjoyed telling me that story. And he added that when Gen. MacArthur's guest he enquired of Minami and when he learned that the war lord was a prisoner of war, asked to see him, which MacArthur personally arranged. Those who met Minami at government receptions will remember what a proud, overbearing individual he was. The Bishop said that when the former Gen. walked out of the prison he was an old man with his trousers held up by a piece of rope, and the Bishop introduced himself with the above story that recalled him to the Japanese. Then Minami took hold of the Bishop and held him close for a minutes actually. Now are the mighty fallen! The Bishop later had a Japanese Bible sent him. The Korean M. E.s are to elect a Bishop as a successor to Bishop Kim and who disappeared when the Red attack overtook Seoul, June 1950. I'll try and have the news for you next week. The candidates, or rather among the candidates are Hyung Gi Lew and Fritz Pyun. One surprise in connection with the conference is the inability of Dr. Brumbaugh, the M. E. Board Secretary for Korea, who is in Japan to get clearance for Korea. The Methodists explained that it is due to Brumbaugh's membership in the Methodist Federation for Social Action which has been written up in Reader's Digest and other magazines as a Red or Pink organization. Apparently membership in the organization that many consider tinged with Communism is holding up clearance. Stanley Soltau is also being delayed, it now being a month, I believe, since he began negotiations for permission to come to Korea. Here's an illustration of the devotion and zeal of a humble Korean's faith. A young fellow whom the Methodists had been showing religious movies in the Won Ju area at the time of the evacuation CARRIED the projector, sound box, and whole equipment on his back, leaving his personal belongings, and now for months in Pusan and on Jay Joo Do island (Quelpart), has been showing the movies in churches. The movie is "I AM THE WAY". Let me tell you that that fellow had a backbreaking job. Last Friday I was asked to take part in the dedication of the site of the Dr. Gerald A. Martin Memorial Health Center. The Army authorities on Kuh Jay Do decided to name the new dispensary where they will care medically for the Korean employees of the army, after Gerry, and the expectation is that when the war is over and the Korean Government takes over that, they will continue on as a hospital for the area. The Commanding Officer of the Island spoke and then I made some remarks about knowing Gerry as a boy and later of the happy friendship I had with him. Ed Kilbourne his brother-in-law showed me a letter received from Gerry's widow and it is a precious testimony. God has given her faith and victory in this awful experience. It has finally been revealed that the accident was due to two planes crashing in midair, the sort of thing that would happen once out of a million times. But above accidents-mishaps, and million to one chances is the Throne of God and by faith we look to Him and ask for grace to trust Him cordially Harold



millers ✓  
Reiners ✓  
Sherris ✓  
Opuns ✓  
Chambers ✓  
Dr. Clark 509 - So 15<sup>th</sup> Muskogee Chh  
Dr. R. K. Smith -

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
Chaplain Section, 60 Gen Depot  
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San Francisco, California

November 15, 1951

Dear Everybody:

Greetings from Presbyterian House in Pusan. Listen to the menué tonight, mandoo-kuk, rice, kimchi, beansprouts, ice cream and cake. How does that sound to the former Koreaites among you. Oh, how delicious the Korean dishes were. I've been feasting so richly on army steaks and chicken lately I have no room to voice any complaints whatever but the change to the delicious Korean dishes was a treat. The cook here has been with missionaries for years; in Syun Chun she knew Olivette. When visiting here at this house one must always be ready for sudden, unexpected arrivals and sure 'nuff we weren't disappointed and at ten last night Petrie Mitchell arrived from Kwang Ju. He's the new treasurer of the S. Pres. Mission. He is making the trip to Pusan to see the Lintons off, among other things. The Lintons are going on furlough and the report was that Florence Root had at last agreed to go along but alas; it is a false alarm for Florence is still in Kwang Ju and will attempt to get some rest on Wando, an island off the west coast. Florence is fearful lest she get back to America and then after a rest be unable to return to Korea like other single women and wives. The Lintons are staying at Chisholms so I went over to see them and got some news about the Independent Board folk. The Chisholms are holding a meeting for G.I.s which they call "HOUR OF POWER"; and last ~~SUNDAY~~ Saturday night 65 army men and women were present. A Bible Study hour is also held on Tuesday nights. Lately the controversy between the congregations loyal to the Independent Board and the Pusan Presbytery has reached drastic stages and recently groups here and there have left their church buildings and either built or bought new church homes. In some instances there has been disgraceful antics, as for example the time Mr. Lane the Australian Presbyterian visited a church to have the congregation decide what they were going to do to accept or reject the Presbytery's requirement to follow rules. When Lane and the committee entered the Church the hostile elements began singing a hymn and continued actually for an hour or more until it was evident that no orderly meeting could be held and the service was adjourned. Apparently a new denomination is the goal of the recalcitrant elements. \*\* The Methodists ~~XXXXXX~~ elected Hyun Ge Lew as the new bishop. Charlie Stokes has been elected chairman of the Methodist Mission. The Korean Methodist Church formerly did away with the old comity arrangement and established districts in the south of Korea. \*\* Stanley Soltau is here. He arrived last Saturday and after Sunday here got up to Taegu where he is now lecturing in the Seminary. He wants to get to Seoul and Chung Ju and would also like to get over to the Southern Pres. territory but his time is limited. He originally got three months leave of absence from his church but much time was lost getting the passport and permission to enter Korea. Joe Hopper, Southern Pres. has been cleared to enter Korea and is expected to sail soon and begin teaching in the Seminary in Taegu. Dr. Murray of the Canadian Mission called yesterday and mentioned the graduation from Ewah's Medical School (27), but being women they would have a bit of trouble finding jobs, needy as doctors are. An army medical authority suggested that the girls get jobs in the P.O.W. Camps, of all places. Who in the world would have suggested such an arrangement, especially in the Orient. But this afternoon I met the Surgeon of our Camp mentioned the availability of the 27 dames and he jumped at the idea, said he'd visit Dr. Murray this evening to see what could be done. Strange deal isn't it. \*\* This morning I went out to the ware house to get the cases of note books, pencils, and three organs for refugee congregations that Otto De Camp brought from Japan for us. The payments America is making Korea that have appeared in the newspapers are making quite a difference in the exchange rates. I mentioned sometime ago that the wun had fallen to 12,500 for a dollar. Now its come up to 9,600 for a dollar. Quite a difference when these mission treasurers go to exchange five or ten thousand dollars.

This black market is incredible. Arrow shirts are selling for the equivalent of ten dollars a piece. Stores are actually flooded with American watches. Where they come from, how they are smuggled in and how they are financed is a mystery, but there they are representing extravagance on the one hand while there is grinding poverty on the other.. Hetic days but days filled with wonderful opportunities to live and witness for Christ.

Cordially,  
Harold.

[ A letter from Miss Ada Sandell, nurse, Cannadian Mission to R. J. McK.)

"----- Harold Voelkel has been so generous with his letters and last week four of us Canadians went over to ~~KK~~ Kuh Jay Do Island where he was very generous with his car and time. He took us over the POW Camp and mentioned that he would like you to know something about it, so I promised to write and give you my impressions of the place.

We had a lovely boat trip to the Island and being our first visit we thoroughly enjoyed it. It is a trip of four hours and the sea was very calm and the surrounding hills and islands beautiful. We were greeted at the wharf by a group of Chinese prisoners of war singing a hymn in Chinese of course. It seems that they take the prisoners in gangs down to the wharf to load and unload the boats and these were waiting to unload the one on which we travelled. They carried our baggage, relief goods, bedding and food box to Harold's car and away we went to the mess hall where we had lunch after which we went on our tour of the camp. By the way, I think we were the first women to see it. I couldn't tell you just how many there are in the camp, that's a military secret, but there are thousands, Chinese and Koreans. The most vicious are in a tent or tents apart from the others and have a double guard. However, for the most part the guards are not very much in evidence.

Mr. Woodbury and Han Moksa, who speak Chinese, are working with those of that nationality and as we passed by one camp Han was just about to have a service with, I should say 200 men. We asked him to get them singing, which they did. They do not sing as well as the Koreans do, but it was interesting to see and hear them. There are two camps of Chinese, or rather sections, one violently Communist and the other Nationalistic. At the entrance to the latter's tents is a big banner on which is written "Down with Communism and Russia" in English. They also fly the National flag. There were several tents which had a cross on the top and we were told these were churches. They have had thousands of conversions among the POWs and I cannot remember how many baptisms. Mr. Lutz and Mr. Bruce Cummins are also Chaplains there and are doing a good work. Mr. Lutz has been teaching them handcrafts and we saw the results in front of the tents. Some of the entrances made one think of old China while others reminded us of old Korea. In one place a group of young Koreans were practicing for a social affair of some sort. They were doing some kind of a dance and having a good time doing it.

Harold tells us that many of them do not want the communists to win this war, also that when there was talk of the Peace Treaty being signed, several of them committed suicide at the mention of exchange of prisoners. They do not want to go back to communism. All they want is to be allowed to go back to their farms and live in peace. This, of course does not apply to the violent ones I mentioned above. I think that is about all I can tell you of the camp, except to say that Harold and the other Chaplains are doing a great work there.

Our visit to the rest of the island was most interesting, if very upsetting emotionally. We saw friends there whom we had not expected to see again. Eleven years ago I said "goodbye" to them and have not seen them since. What a welcome they gave us! What tears and laughter as they told us the story of all that had happened since they last saw us. Families are separated some members in the North and the others in the South. What will be the outcome for them if the CeaseFire becomes a reality with the 38th line still in force? Its not a very nice thought. The people are living in poorly erected housing in shacks and huts and in tents. They are also holding schools and church in tents sitting on the earth, but they have courage and the desire to carry on

in spite of everything. Their spirit is wonderful and in spite of their poverty they are raising money to winterize their churches.

At present there are six refugee High Schools to which many of the original inhabitants of the island go, not being able to afford the high fees which the two High Schools charge. Some fourteen or fifteen Lower Schools are also carried on in tents. Fortunately, the weather is much warmer there than it is in the North, so they are not suffering as much from the weather as they might. However, its too cold to be sitting on the bare earth.

Severance Hospital is carrying on a unit over there and they gave me a cordial invitation to join them. I have not decided yet, but am praying that the Lord will give me the right leading as to where I shall go. There is so much work to do and I am anxious to render the best service I can for God and Korea.

I know your heart is in Korea and that you would like to be here. So far no other ladies have been allowed to return but doctors and nurses. Two Methodists, medical folk, are expected tomorrow or Sunday in the persons of Thelma Maw and Miss Piper.

When will man learn to trust the Lord and love one another? If only we would live in His love and depend on His promises this would be such a beautiful world, wouldn't it?

Now I think I have told you all that I can for this time. I know you are remembering Korea in your prayers and I do not need to urge you to do so. Pray for me too, won't you?

Yours Sincerely,  
Ada S. ndell

v. 9. 1951.

Millers ✓  
Reiners ✓  
Harrold ✓  
Bruens ✓  
Chasman ✓  
D. Smith ✓  
Dick K. Smith ✓

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
Chaplain Section, 60 Gen Depot  
A.P.O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

November 30, 1951

Dear Everybody:

Back in Pusan and what a gathering of the clan. For the last several visits here the army officers' mess was serving steak for dinner and I was able to have the "inmates" of Presbyterian House as my guests but last night the entree was roast pork and as believers of the Old Testament I knew they wouldn't be interested so we're waiting until tonight when the menu calls for baked ham. Somehow or other baked ham doesn't seem like pork. Well, what a gang we had around the table last night, Harry Hill was in the chair and draped around him were Paul Haines and Ed. Kilbourne of the Oriental Missionary Society, John Hill Christian, Herb. Coddington, So. Presbyterian M. D., Jim Phillips, Otto DeCamp and myself. Quite a family isn't it? Harry Hill occupies an ondul room, I slept in a tatami room with Otto and Herb, and the other four young bloods were in the second tatami room. Otto refers to the place as "Chang No Kyo Yu Kwan", Presbyterian Inn. The wits got started wise-cracking at about ten-thirty and got so wound up it was 11:30 before things quieted down, and with only paper partitions between the rooms conditions were not conducive to sleep.

It's turned cold and the liabilities of Japanese housing are asserting themselves. Old army tent stoves, originally equipped with oil burners were purchased on the open market, minus the burners and are suitable for wood burning but wood is frightfully expensive, enough to keep a room warm about an hour costs ten cents and moreover the wood burns up in a jiffy and needs almost constant attention. If a visitor calls or for some other reason you are called from the room during the few minutes you are out of the room the wood butns up (or down take your choice) so that upon your return you must build a new fire. I'm not complaining but just stating one situation among others that is time consuming, distracting, and for the time being, part of the picture. With a home full of men each having callers you can readily imagine how difficult any privacy or opportunity for concentration is. Last night all of us went over to the Methodist House to view "King of Kings" that Otto had brought in order to decide if any parts had to be cut to make it acceptable for Korean audiences. Scenes like Mary Magdalene might prove out of place in Korean churches.

Otto had been up to Seoul and brought back some interesting views. Genso's Old house is occupied by a General and nine Airforce Colonels, no lease - DeCamps, (Rhodes-Coen) and our place (single ladies) are filled with Airforce and enlisted men. Otto said the fellows say it is the best housing they ever had and they are taking good care of the quarters. The interior of our Mission houses have all been repainted, the wood-work green this time instead of the previous army brown. On Sunday evening Otto drove up to the Peace Camp at Munsan with John Underwood who eats Sunday evening dinners each week with Horace and Dick the Kaesung Interpreters. Otto says the conversation was very interesting of course, that Dick Underwood remarked that he guessed he had learned two thousand <sup>new</sup> words but that by actual count they turned out to be only 500. But that in technical language is quite an accomplishment. Asked for appraisals of the ability of the Red delegates, they rated Nam Ill, Northern Korean General as a bright one, the Chinese not so sharp. "Can't you beat them in the arguments?" Answer. "Whenever we get them boxed they reply with a formula, 'your arguments are all wrong and ours are all right' (or words to that effect)". John Underwood is teaching a heavy schedule in the Chung Ju Buble Institute during the week and gets up to Seoul on Sunday. In a few days these family-less husbands will begin the Christmas trek to Japan to be with wives and children

and will be gone until after the holidays. John Underwood not having a wife, as yet, is staying on, maintaining his record of being the only member of the mission to have remained on since the original Communist attack. Howie Moffett and Dell are having some very fortunate breaks. The Airforce general is occupying their home in Taegu (rather it is kept available for airforce generals) and Howie being an airforce medical major and the commander knowing that Howie will be eligible for rotation back to the States in January granted permission for Dell to fly in his plane over to Taegu from Japan to help pack their things. Howie got Dell a flight to Seoul from Taegu and then Dell took the day train down in order to get a look at the destruction enroute. Meantime Howie has gotten himself a trip by air to India and as far as Iran on a State Department courier plane that carries big wigs on diplomatic errands, and has a physician along in case of illness. I forgot to mention that Stan Soltau went along on the plane ride from Taegu to Seoul.

Edna Lawrence is expected in Japan from America in January. At present women's quarters haven't materialized in Taegu but the prospect of a nurse in the hospital will be incentive enough to get things going. The report is that the Bruce Hunts are sailing in a matter of weeks, Kathy and the children will be in Tokyo where Kathy is awaited as a teacher in a Christian school for missionaries youngsters, and Bruce, I suppose, will head for Pusan. Flash--flash--hã is now DOCTOR Edward Adams, as of the 14th of November. Wooster College did itself credit by granting a degree to Ned and we are all sharing in the joy of it. Heartiest congratulations Dr. Adams. We'll collect on the dinner after you get back.

Quite a few fires have broken out lately here in Pusan. A few days ago the local YMCA brick building burned to the ground, a total loss. It was occupied by an American government agency. Last night the explosion of a Korean hand-grenade factory rocked the city, destroying several blocks of homes. I was a little longer away from the city this time than usual and it seems the place appears more hectic than ever, more vivid contrasts, poverty and luxury side by side. I just saw as sad a sight as I can remember in front of the railroad station, an insane middle aged woman, lying on the ground uncovered from the waist down, a huge disgusting sore that suggested a venereal condition and eyes hidden by a mucus discharge. A crowd gathered different ones yelled at her, and slowly she arose and walked off. Up the street a coolie stopped to rest his load, a coffin, and I noticed that it wasn't made of the thick, heavy timber as formerly but light, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch boards; just enough to get the body into the ground.

The black market is thriving with an amazing assortment. Brand new army leather gloves, the best issued, the equivalent of \$2.50. Within a city block I counted three bakeries, their display windows filled with decorated layer cakes, multiple layers, covered with chocolate and whipped-cream flowers. I estimated one to be about 18" in diameter. Three bakeries busy with whipped-cream layer cakes and the "other half" striving to keep warm and adequately fed in winter. I complained of this to an elder and he lamenting the situation reminded me that Pusan was now the Capitol where the grafters and mercenary characters flock. The work at the POW Camp is as challenging and encouraging as ever although I'm finding naturally that the more we get things organized and schedules set-up the more time administration consumes. The Chinese are getting a good going-over these days. Earl Woodberry and his assistant Han Moksa formerly of First Church Taegu are as vigorous as ever in their evangelism but besides them is a newly arrived Irish Catholic priest, an ousted China missionary, and also a Chinese Buddhist priest. "What approach does the Buddhist ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ make?" Wise old owl, he says there is the Protestant Church, the Catholic church and Buddhism all good, take your choice! But our men having been on the job for months have had plenty of time to hammer home the truth that "There is none other Name given among men whereby we must be saved!"

*Read H. Breen*

Cordially,

Harold

Wicket  
Reiners  
Shaw  
Branan  
Chambers  
Dr. Clark  
Dr. K. Smith

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
Chaplain Section, 60 Gen. Depot  
A.P.O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

December 12, 1951

Dear Everybody:

Big Day today. We had a visit from the Chief of Chaplains from Washington, Major General Roy Parker (Southern Baptist). The Chaplains' Corps takes on a bit of significance at least for one day two stars gleaming from before and after the car in which he travels around the island. He flew over from Pusan in a Piper cub and spent about two hours with us but in that time he saw quite a bit. The Chaplains, five regular army, six D.S.C. like myself (Department of Army Civilians), and one Buddhist, Chinese, gathered for an informal gathering in the Chapel and after that the Chief started a visit around the compounds, first at the Chinese, then three Korean. I believe he was impressed but after more than thirty years in the army, superlatives are not to be expected, I take it, for the best I could get out of him was, "Its very interesting". The army pilot who flew the General over went around the compounds with us with one of the new high-powered cameras. In one place the pilot took a picture of a group and in a moment or two handed the Korean leader a copy of the snap. The expression of the Korean seeing a picture taken a moment before that was a study, worthy of a snap itself. The visit meant a lot of running around for me so I was ready for dinner tonight and it turned out to be roast turkey (even though it isn't Sunday but only Wednesday); hard life isn't it. On the way from dinner to my Quanset hut I passed the hut in which they have Talkies about every other night but the music sounded less "canned" than usual so I stopped in and 'sure' nuff there was a G.I. jazz band going at it. In the back of the hut were gathered a number of Chinese POW's who work in the enlisted-mens' ~~KIX~~ mess, all eyes and ears, with particular focus on the drummer who had difficulty keeping sit. When I asked "ha bee ha?" (how do you like it?), they all beamed a hearty "Ding Ha" ( Good). So here I am at the typewriter while the band goes blowing, thumping, and blaring away.

Some days ago sad news reached us here. Dr. Scott of the Canadian Mission is over here getting a place fixed up for Dr. Murray and Miss Sandell of their mission to reside while working in a branch of Severance Hospital in one of the ports. Scott brought a truck with him driven by a Korean Chauffeur and in coming out of the gate of the hospital and down one of the narrow streets a seven year old boy somehow got tangled in the wheels and the truck ran over his head and killed him. Now let me say that it is a marvel that dozens of these kids are not killed every day for they pay no attention whatever to horns or warnings. Driving is scary business here. And the surprising thing is that despite the care the chauffeur was taking ~~the~~ who was driving the Canadian truck when word of the accident got out the people of the village were intent on killing the chauffeur. The police immediately arrested him and two or three days later when I called to see Scott he had not yet been able to get in to see the chauffeur. Scott said he was sending in food to the chauffeur but the news was that only about half was reaching him because of the terribly crowded cell whose inmates helped themselves to the meals. It is now about a year since the refugees began arriving here from the north and the other day I learned of this experience from one of the pastors who works with me in the camp. Kan Sin Chung. He left Seoul with his family, wife and six children on the 1st of January and WALKED TO TAIKU, a trip that took them 19 days, in the snow. Their food was what rice they brought with them. Four nights they slept on the ground. From Taiku, Arch Campbell arranged for them, and many others Christian refugees to be transported by a mission truck to Pusan. From there by boat in a few hours to this island, Kuh Jedo, where they arrived the 27th of January.

Cordially,

Harold

Misless ✓  
Reiners ✓  
Shawcks ✓  
Chamms ✓  
Bruens ✓  
De Smith ✓

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
Chaplain Section, 60 Gen. Depot  
A.P.O. 59, c/o Postmaster,  
San Francisco, California

December 18, 1951  
(Received L. A. Dec. 28 '51)

Dear Everybody:

More visitors and I must tell you about it. Some weeks ago I learned that the new Presbyterian General Assembly Stated Clerk, Dr. Eugene Carsen Blake, formerly of Pasadena, and a Mr. Proffitt, department store owner in Maryville, Tenn., president of Presby. Laymens' Association, were visiting Korea. Our Executive Committee was anxious for them to visit Kujedo not only to see the POW work but also to get a first-hand view of the Refugee Relief Program. Blake and Proffitt are continuing around the world, India, Middle East, and Europe on an overall relief project. So Yesterday at noon on the boat from Pusan there were the distinguished visitors plus Harry Hill and Fran Kinsler. I had asked the colonel for permission to have three guests and to have four turn up gave it a distinct Oriental flavor. However, since my Catholic priest room-mate has been away for a few days I had this little place plus room in the neighboring qunset available, and there is always plenty of chow. After introductions and some "do's" and "don'ts" from the colonel and a substantial army lunch we started around the compounds. As usual our visitors had high-powered, expensive camera gear, colored films, etc., and having been blessed with a wonderful sunny and mild day, we were generous in allowing them time for shots. I figured they ought to see a Bible Institute in session for one thing. A regular service would have been best but Monday afternoon is not a propitious time and moreover, there is never time for these hurried Americans. We wound up and down the valleys letting them get a general view, then stopped in to see a B. I. Walking through the compound we came across several hundred POW's practicing Christmas carols. That was something to see, but to let guests hear what could really be done I had the congregation sing, "Yes, Jesus Loves Me", and then Blake, Proffitt, Hill, Kinsler and myself sang it in English. That would have been the picture to get but we were all busy. We dropped in another compound to let them know we'd be there for Daybreak Prayers visited the hospital where the POW pastor lives, paused in front of the Chinese compound to meet Earl Woodberry, and then headed out to Chang Sung Po, the port, the refugee center. It was a lovely drive and the lagoons offered temptation to the sutter-bugs but it was decided to dispense with the pleasure in order to get the business done. We wanted to get back to the camp for dinner but as soon as we reached the port and the Christians told us what they had lined up we saw we couldn't do that. So we "compromised", agreed to meet with the church workers (pastors and Bible women) for an hour then, have dinner with the newly arrived Canadian missionaries, Ada Sandell and Buelah Burns, who arrived Saturday to join the staff of the branch Severance Hospital in that town. I had told them that three guests would be coming. The extent to which five crowded their miniature apartment you can readily imagine. Blake is huge, a former footballer. The girls warned me we would all have to sit around a card table, so you can imagine the close quarters but an exceedingly happy dinner party, just the same. The conversation was rich. Buelah had just come from the Southern Presbyterian hospital in Chun Ju, and with the visitors asking questions about medical relief work around the country and in this area the talk kept moving along. I must tell you of Ada's report of remarks made by the boss army nurse, the colonel in charge of all the army nursing in Korea. At a recent meeting she said army nurses could tell mission-hospital trained Korean nurses in a minute by, first their attitude toward the patient and second their superior ability! Now, how's that? Ada had been told by the nurse in charge of the POW hospital that all a Koroan nurse needed to get a job was a statement that she had been trained in a mission hospital - that was enough for her. What satisfaction to those who have put such long and faithful years of nurse-training service into the work. We had to eat and run to be at the church by 6:30 (that isn't early here now for its dark by that time). After introductions Blake preached

taking 1 John 4:7 for his text. It was an excellent sermon, just the thing for a congregation like that that had passed through a year of refugee life. ( It is a year to the day yesterday that I left Ham Hung). And Fran did a masterful job of interpreting the sermon. I envy his accuracy and flow of Korean. It was one of the best interpretations I've ever heard. Following the sermon there were gifts of embroidery pieces to the visitors and after farewells we turned back, reached home by 8:30 earlier than we had hoped. I trust our hosts of the evening will pardon me if I mention that having expected only three guests they baked only one ---, which having to be divided among seven resulted in not so large portions. So, upon our return we were ready for a snack and I discovered in the mess hall that the cook had put aside some choice pieces of fried chicken that had been left over, Chicken sandwiches plus chocolate Toddy's just hit the spot. Harry and Fran opened their cots in my hut and Blako and Profitt bunked next door. The end of a perfect day. At five-thirty we wore up to be ready for the Day-break Prayer Meeting and as always the throngs gathered at that hour, in the dark now, to sing brought tremendous inspiration. A good breakfast in the mess hall and off to the boat. By eight o'clock they were on their way back to Pusan.

I can hardly realize that Christmas is so close only a week off but things will be bursting in on us all of a sudden, I'm sure. The postal clerk mentioned the other day that two ships of mail had arrived. I suppose the A.P.O people put all the Christmas mail together. What an abundance there will be! The POW's are making amazing preparations for the celebration of the Day, in one compound they are building a gothic tower that reminds me of the Cleveland tower in Princeton. And in case you think I'm spoofing, I'll take a picture of it when its finished and show you. I've bought dyes, candles, white paper and other items to be used in decorations, wise-men and shephord outfits, etc., Permission has been given to cut down some pines nearby for trees. And now let me make an appeal to all of you to pray as hard as you know how that the joy of the carols and details of the Christmas story may grip the hearts of thousands of these unbelievers for they can't help but see all that it means to Christians to celebrate the birth of our Lord. And it behooves us all to spend time on our knees that the whole world may be jarred into a recognition of the significance of the advent of the Saviour of the world.

Cordially,



Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
Chaplain Section, 60 Gen. Depot  
A.P.O. 59, C/O Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

December 26, 1951

Dear Everybody:

This year I am finding that Christmas is not merely a day but a season, and a very rich experience. It really began for me last week when I was over in Pusan. The "residents" of Presbyterian House were both away. Otto DeCamp in Japan with the family and Harry Hill in Seoul with the "Big Wheels", Stated Clerk Blake and Mr. Rroffit, so I had the whole house to myself. The servants are old, old-timers and with the bosses away there was plenty of time to talk and with Christmas so near we decided to celebrate. The cooks made "mandu" (beef dumplings), fried toofoo (bean curd), boiled rice, supplied kimchi, which together with persimmons and apples provided a delicious feast. Present were the two cooks, our former Seoul cook and her boy, Yung Ney the Seoul chauffeur, and a young pastor Kim, formerly of the Presbyterian Seminary who was officially "minding" the house. It was a delightful time, everyone recounting the experiences of the past hectic year, each one praising God for the Providences that brought him through in health and strength. Out here where danger and death, starvation and cold and misery stalk around the comfort and protection of Jesus' presence is very real. Two years ago the Seoul Yun Dong Compound servants' party was held in our home and the events of the time since provided much for interesting conversation. After the feast we worshipped and the Christmas hymns never seemed more beautiful than in that warm fellowship.

Saturday I returned to the Island, and Sunday beside the regular POW services I had promised to preach at a union service of six refugee congregations at Kuje Up in the afternoon. I had known the people in and around Ham Hung. So many bundles of relief goods had come my room was bulging. They filled the station wagon and constituted as delightful a load as I ever hauled. The congregation had secured permission to use the school house and the assembly hall was about filled when I arrived. We got the service going about 2:30. I wanted to get a picture of the crowd before the sun was too low so after the hymn, prayer, Scripture, and choir number I asked the presiding pastor if I might take a picture. He nonchallantly replied, "We have no such custom as taking pictures during a service". And that was that. I felt let down but couldn't help but admire his sense of propriety and reverence. The program was long as usual with special musical numbers from each of the churches and then after my sermon it was announced that there was to be a feed for the guest to which only a few could be invited. I know I disappointed them by excusing myself from the meal and I wouldn't have had the courage to do so had I not had a whole car full of clothing to prove my affection for them. People from all over America many names I don't recognize keep sending things and I haven't any idea how they get my address. Let me say that too much use of the A.P.O. postal facilities endangers my own use of that privilege which would be a tragic loss for me. I am continually amazed at the ability of these refugees to clothe and house themselves. Often some queer and "striking" outfits turn up as for example a fellow who on Sunday had a shirt I'm sure was made out of a mattress cover. As I left a pastor thrust upon me a toke of kimchi. I tried to refuse it, of course, for I couldn't possibly keep it in my room and wouldn't wish to if I could!!! But there was no way out but to drive off with it even though it stank up the car. I enjoyed making it a Christmas gift to the POWs at the hospital. That reminds me of other gifts, namely mouth-organs, harmonicas. From time to time they've come in parcels and seeing the fun they furnished the POW congregations I asked Gertrude to buy a hundred. Don't be alarmed we have 20 congregations so that would mean only five for each one. And I must confess I didn't know they could run into so much money. In the Sears-Robuck catalogue I saw that they got as high as \$12.00. Can you imagine that? When I was a kid they were a nickle and a dime as I remember it. Anyway Gertrude was able to get dandy one

In Tokyo for a dollar each and the first fifty came a few days ago. In figuring up the accounts I wondered what Bob Pierce would think of me spending a hundred dollars that way for he has given me a fund to go on but when I took them to the compounds and saw the utter delight with which they were received and the enthusiasm with which they were played I decided it was well worth five dollars a compound. These Japanese harmonicas are a good job and would doubtless cost a number of times that much in America.

It is impossible to give you an adequate account of the preparations the POWs made for Christmas, that is all except a few out and out Red compounds from which we have had to remove Christians because of the hatred and danger. In them there was a sullen indifference to the day, but in all the others banners, streamers, Wise Men, Shepherds, the Manger, and even Santa Claus proclaimed the festive day. Special facades were built for tents designed from Christmas cards and huge gates, trimmed with pine branches, supporting MERRY CHRISTMAS signs decorated the entrance. In one compound a pole fully sixty feet high was erected with strings of varied-colored flags and banners reaching out in all directions, and underneath these flags and banners a pavillion was built for the pulpit and choir. Thousands came out to the service but unfortunately almost from the beginning of the worship it rained and the photographs I planned to take of each compound didn't materialize. It is a pity for I wanted you all to see the devotion and intelligent enthusiasm of these POW Christians.

Tragically enough we've had another crisis here and the strange thing is it was at Christmas and over Christmas. Now let me say that I am taking the risk of writing this up in confidence that not one who reads this will publicize it. It is absolutely not to be published, this is to be considered a personal letter to you, to friends whom I can trust with information that is not to be broadcast. In numbers of compounds from time to time groups of militant and arrogant Reds seize power in the organizational set-up and vent their bitterness and hatred on Rightists by brutalizing them. With Red strong-arm methods it doesn't take many to intimidate thousands and terrorize a whole compound. In one compound the Korean leader (Geneva Convention calls for POW self-government under the captors) was a baptized Christian, an avowed Rightist, who had been in jail up north for his anti-Communist convictions, he was doing a good job in his leadership but under him his assistant and the lesser leaders were against him and determined to get him. The school established in the compound was one bone of contention, the Reds being hostile to the instruction given there but the occasion was Christmas. For weeks and months there the Christians have been scared of their lives, brow-beaten and intimidated, and once when I ~~took~~ the loud-speaker in and conducted outdoor meetings some gathered but nothing

like the other compounds where there is no tension. With all the other compound in such colorful decorations the leader decided something had to be done to celebrate Christmas and to dispell the gloom that hung over the place, so he and a group of fellows gathered in the school the night of the 23rd to make paper flowers and other decorations. From reports what happened was something like this: suddenly the light switch was pulled, a gang of perhaps fifty threw sharp racks into the room where the men were working and took clubs to beat them to death. First thing the next morning, as soon as I heard the report, I went to the hospital to see the victims and the sight as you can imagine was terrible. A number were unconscious with broken skulls and others in various stages of injury. The leader and another died and this morning I saw two other bodies at the morgue with their heads bashed in. The authorities quickly removed the Reds and with the trouble-makers out, everything calmed down. Now listen to this: yesterday at the Christmas service 5,000 were present. The last time I Preached in that compound you could feel the fear and tension. Even after my prayer the "Amen" was so weak I called the Christians on it and asked if they wish God to grant them what I had prayed for, but then when I requested a repeat "Amen" it was weak and lifeless. How dreadful these uprisings are. I think of the wife and family hoping and trusting for the return of the husband and father, and I pray that God will comfort them when they learn of his death

a martyr for the faith. Praise God for the grace that makes a sacrifice like his the occasion for blessing to the whole compound.

Christmas Day began early, a little after four the first carolers arrived, the hospital choir, and from then on about each hour we had music, JOY TO THE WORLD SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT; and the other favorites. I actually wept with joy at the wonder of these people singing amid all their sufferings and hardships. I can't help but mention by contrast the numbers of drunken enlisted men who passed my room with their awful blasphemy and obscenity on Christmas Eve. Not all the Americans were drunk, of course, but too many were. That reminds me of the meeting of three Catholic Chaplains in my room which I share with a priest who gathered to plan the mid-night mass which as always a big show Christmas Eve. I am learning many of the rules and regulations governing their activities and one is fasting before mass. One chaplain remarked that it was unfortunate that the main officers' club was serving free drinks Christmas Eve and because of that the question was raised whether or not they should have a strong-armed man at the door to handle any drunks who might come to the mass. So far as I know they didn't have any trouble.

On Christmas Day I decided to visit each of our twenty congregations and bring them a greeting but I didn't get very far for upon reaching the third one I got bogged down. They made me come in and "accept" a gift, a suit of Korean clothes, pants, shirt, vest turamaggie, and straw shoes. I've possessed a number of Korean ~~skatxaxxx~~ outfits in years gone by but none like this, made out of used flour bags! And believe me its warm. I wore it all day and finally took it off in order to cool off. And their generosity was not limited to me. A few days ago one of the POW's asked me what my wife's name was which aroused my curiosity and sure 'nuff here it is an outfit for Gertrude likewise made out of old flour bags. Listen, Gertrude's outfit was neatly packed in a wooden box artistically painted, "Miss Gertrude S. Voelkel". Now don't be too hard on the fellow who made the mistake in English for he is our English teacher in the Bible Institute in that compound. I sincerely hope the Bible teaching is of higher standard than that of the English.

After driving my Korean associates home to Oak Poo and Chang Sung Poo, some 20 miles in the rain each way, I returned to my room tuckered out after a whirl wind day but deeply thankful to God for its joys. I missed the family more than I can say. I have been away too many Christmases from them but I am grateful that I could be here with so many thousands who likewise are separated from their loved ones and who wonder when and if they will ever see them again. With Cease-Fire Talks and the discussion of the exchange of prisoners many are signing protests in their own blood that they would rather die than be sent back to the Communists. May God have mercy on them, grant peace soon to this land, and a revival worldwide.

Cordially,

Harold.

Miller ✓  
Reiner ✓  
Shanks ✓  
Clausen ✓  
Breen ✓  
Chapman ✓  
Smith ✓

PLEASE NOTE THE  
NEW ADDRESS

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
U.N. POW Camp #1  
A.P.O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif

January 7, 1952

Dear Friends:

We have just been treated to a spectacle, really a theatrical demonstration, American showmanship at its best; Cardinal Spellman has paid us a visit. For days the STARS & STRIPES, the Army newspaper and the radio told of Gen'l Van Fleet's invitation to the Catholic prelate to spend Christmas at the front. Just why a Protestant commander (Some say he is Episcopalian, some a Presbyterian) should single out a Catholic for this single honor when the greater number of troops are NOT Catholic is both strange and annoying. The invitation was surprising in itself but the grand-manner, the super-duper arrangements of the itinerary left nothing to be desired. Upon his arrival at the airport in Pusan the Cardinal was met by the American ambassador Muccio (Italian decent but not now church-related), political recognition. All but "Very Important People make the trip from Pusan to Kujedo by boat, a four hour trip; VIP's by light plane. The landing strip here is small and can accommodate only tiny planes so that larger passenger craft are out, and frequently as in the recent visit of the Chief of Chaplains, Major-General Parker, he came alone for a larger party would mean more planes which are not always available. But for his eminence FIVE planes arrived, with Catholic dignitaries, reporters and photographers, and Gen'l Van Fleet himself. From the airstrip ahead of the official party several military Police Jeeps clearing the road to the compounds. All traffic was made to get off to one side and stop (I was one of them), then came and Army sedan driven by the Island commander himself, the Pusan general beside him, the cardinal and Van Fleet in the rear, and Van Fleet forsaking army protocol yielded his right-side honor seat to the prelate, more honor than is to be expected. Two compounds, one Chinese and one Korean were visited and I'm told the cardinal was visibly moved by the reception given him. All prisoners were brought to attention while the guest walked about inspecting the living quarters and mess hall. Some Catholic POW's came forward to be blessed, and one good thing that did happen was that a number of Chinese rolled up their sleeves to show their arms tattooed with Rightist sentiments. Many are pleading not to be sent back to the Communists. Petitions to this effect were handed to Spellman requesting his help in blocking their exchange to the Reds. After fifteen minutes in each compound the party was off, speeding back to the planes. I'd just like to note here that there are five or six times as many Protestant POWs as Catholics, perhaps more. It would be interesting to see whether or not Van Fleet invites a Protestant to be his guest over Easter or some other auspicious occasion for an official visit and whether the same courtesies and honors are accorded him. While on the subject of Catholics I'll jot down some observations growing out of my sharing this quarter-hut with a priest named Petipern, a Korean missionary for some 26 years, former resident of Sin Ui Joo. He is an ideal roommate, a quiet, congenial fellow, who doesn't smoke or drink and who (fortunately for me) enjoys turning in about 10 at night. Neither of us have offices and therefore do all our "living" in the hut which gives us a close-up of Catholic and Protestant life. I must say that my friend is a devout man. What reading he does aside from his breviary is Catholic holiness literature, lives of the "saints", so different from Protestant books on the subject. Petipern lends me copies of these "lives" and the impression I get is that of unreality, the monastic conception that takes a man away from life rather than have him change and bless it through the power of God manifested in him and through him. I look over the Church newspapers he distributed to the G.I.s the SUNDAY VISITOR an awful rag, whose sameness is monotonous and dull. Whatever the news item may be if its "right" its 200% Right, "super right", "super wonderful" and "super true". Contrariwise when a thing is wrong like Communism, Protestantism, England, and the Devil its terribly wrong, distilled evil and diabolical. The church never made a mistake or can make a mistake, no pope, priest or catholic layman was ever guilty of any shortcoming and likewise no good, absolutely nothing, can com

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
U. N. POW Camp #1  
A.P.O. 59, c/o P. M.  
San Francisco, California

February 10, 1952

Dear Everybody:

Praise God for today. Just one day like this would be compensation enough for separation from the family and any other inconvenience that we might mention but with all the encouragement and joy the Lord is giving us today, (Sunday) emphasizes the privilege of being here in this POW ministry. Three of the six pastors I have working with me, all refugees, live 20 li (62/3 miles) from here and are unable to get a ride in the morning Sundays as they do on other days. I therefore started out to meet them before eight o'clock and picked them up less than half the distance away. It was a bright cool morning and by 8:45 we were all at the compounds where each was to hold his first service at 9:00. I noticed as I drove up to the compound where I was to preach that a large number of the POWs were standing at attention in formation. In approaching the gate I realized that the show was for me, a WHAN YUNG WHEI (reception) after my return from leave in Japan. Upon entering the compound a Christian came forth and pinned a big paper flower on my overcoat, another handed me a bouquet of paper flowers and as I walked through the honor guard lined up from the gate clear to the school building where we meet a group followed singing ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS accompanied by a cornet and drum, the latter homemade. The crowd in the building rose as I entered and threw confetti at me. On the platform were four large wreathes of paper flowers and a banner GREAT JOY RETURN with my name in Korean under it. First we had the speeches of welcome, a gift of a number of homemade finger rings a solo and then my reply. Following was the service and my guess is that 1,200 jammed into the building that is supposed to accomodate 900. These schools are the largest and the only buildings available for meetings and we are fortunate, very fortunate, to be able to use them on Sundays when school sessions are not held. In my reply I told them that I was unable to put into words all that the reception meant to me - how little we thought when we first met (just after they were captured) that God would bless us with such a precious fellowship. The ability and energy and devotion of these men is a delight and it stirs my soul to anticipate the leadership they will exert in their home communities upon their release. With the New Year we thought we'd check up on statistics of the various activities; graduates of the N. T. Bible Cor. Course 1,271; new enrollments in the N. T. 1,671; new enrollments in the O. T. (all graduate of the New) 772; 14 Bible Institutes with a total enrollment of 3,233. Now I trust that all who read this letter will pause and thank God for His working in our midst and ask for His continued blessing upon us. This afternoon I was to hold a second meeting in a compound but upon my arrival found that a field day of sports had been scheduled for the afternoon and that plus work gangs sent out that included a number of Christians it was decided that we better not try to meet and any way they had had a meeting this morning. That was at 1:30 and the cancellation of the service gave me a breather before three o'clock when I was scheduled to preach to Korean troops. I had dropped in to see the R.O.K. authorities this morning and made all details and arranged with the G. I. in charge of a nearby American Army theatre to use it from 2:45 on. But at three the theatre was locked and no Koreans were on hand, so I had to go out and pull out my congregation and hold the meeting outdoors, chilly of course but not too frigid. I then drove my preacher brethren to their homes, returned to a steak dinner and from there to the typewriter. What a day and what a privilege. Thanks be to God.

Now having shared the activities of these happy days with you let me pass on an unfortunate experience that grieved us all this week. One of the pastors had his brief case searched at a compound gate and they found an unusually large sum of money, which of course isn't a crime (he was doing some purchasing for someone) but having had their suspicions aroused the guards kept looking and found a list of items a group of POWs had asked him to buy and for which

out of anything outside the church. It soon grows tiresome and I was not surprised to hear Petipern complain that the catholic G. I.s were not taking the SUNDAY VISITOR from the chapels to read. Since the breviary requires about an hour and a half a day and mass occupies from 40 to 50 minutes there isn't too much time left for the priest each day for "outside" reading. I was amazed by the poor Korean the priests speak, not because they haven't the ability but because they haven't the incentive. They say the mass in Latin, of course, to the Koreans as well as Americans, and do very little public speaking and teaching. Their evangelism is largely institutional through orphanages, hospitals, and schools. When I started on this army job my catholic counterpart visited the troops together, and after a time or two he contended himself with calling the catholics aside for a conference (there were not many), not interested as I was in challenging the whole group with a decision for Christ. I believe that if these priests were required to preach for 30 minutes at each service and to teach in Bible Institutes the way we all are, they would have to get busy on the language as few of them have. Of course they have their scholars. The German Benedictines in and around Wonsan do their literary work, translation, etc., but among the American priests, a among the five I've been associated with on this job, I haven't heard one attempt an address in front of a crowd of POWs. They bring along a Korean priest for that. All the Catholic D.A.Cs. on the job here are friendly fellows and the relationship is most harmonious. I'm sure its an eye-opener to them to see the size and vigor, the activity, of the Protestants (an item that would bowl over SUNDAY VISITOR readers). Our Bible Institutes and the Bible Correspondence Courses are a brand new idea to them and seeing the thousands of copies of Scripture portions we distribute they've gotten busy and recently I saw some attractively bound, well printed Catholic New Testaments they're giving out. The cost of these scriptures is borne by the priests themselves. The salary they receive from the army is several times their ordinary pay and the deal is that they may keep it and from it meet all expenses of the POW work.

Have I mentioned that Cecil DeMille the Hollywood producer has sent me a copy of KING OF KINGS for showing in the camps here. Otto De Camp has lent me a projector operated by a Clotema kerosene lamp that enables us to show Bible pictures in the tents where there is no electricity. The films are the PRODIGAL SON, NAAMAN, PENTECOST, and the LIFE OF JOSEPH. Moody B.I. has sent us a Korean copy of the GOD OF CREATION.

Do you remember a POW, an 18 year old boy who decided to believe when we first held meetings among newly captured prisoners in Pyeng Yang, the fellow who of his own accord memorized the whole book of Matthew. The other day one of the Korean pastors happened to come across a record of a Scripture memorizing society this kid has organized, some 20 or more of them get-together from time to time to recite Scripture to each other. And they have a list of what each man knows. The Gospel is LIFE. How my POW ministry has confirmed it. Because of persecution by the Reds in one of the compounds we took the Christians out, it was unbearable for them. For months no services have been held in that compound. The other day one of the pastors happened to drop into that compound and found that eight Christians who'd been forgotten have been regularly worshipping with Bibles and hymn books and now they requested copies of each.

How generous G. I.s are! At the POW hospital are two teen-age boys, POWs, and for Christmas the G. I.s bought them new bicycles, beautiful things. The other day I visited the Jutlandia, the Danish Hospital ship. Among the patients were a number of Korean children wounded by stray shells at the front. The nurses had taught them Danish Christmas carols which the kids sang lustily.

Cordially,

Harold

they had given him the money. POWs are of course not permitted to have money and its possession by them is illegal and we have all signed statements to the effect that we will not carry notes or messages out or into the compounds. There are legal procedures for this. So, our brother was arrested as an offender and only because he was a pastor was he spared the humiliation of being turned over to the native police. He was formally discharged and we all wept just about at the tragedy of it all. We've had such a fine time together its a terrible blow to the man who is a refugee pastor from the north in whose church I preached while up there more than a year ago. Now what he or the others do not know is that, that night I called on the officer who fired him and without asking any favors or making any appeal simply told what a sorrow it was to us all. Good-hearted American said, "O.K. Come to the office tomorrow and I'll give you his employment card back". Which I did. I've figured it will be a good moral tonic for all to grieve a little longer and then I'll break the good news. What a joy forgiveness is - "He that hath had much forgiven loveth much". Great forgiveness awakens much love. Last night the Commanding Officer handed me a letter to read and the Korea people will be interested to know who it was from; none other than Mr. Charles Leonard of Manchuria whose children attended Pyeng Yang school. Mr. Leonard had read our C O's name in some newspaper article about the camps and since we have the Chinese compounds in this command Mr. Leonard wrote telling of his experience in Manchuria and asking if he could be of help. I told the colonel that I knew the writer of the letter well and that he would be an excellent man for the job but as you all knew Earl Woodberry is already on the job. Several days ago Gertrude's father's former secretary, the Bible Cor. Course pastor Kim Kun Haw took ill and he was very fortunate in being able to get into the branch of Severance Hospital operating in Chang Sung Po, 35 li from here. My, what a blessing that institution is. A kindly well trained staff welcomes you and the fine service and treatment is free, part of the Civil Assistance program, a Marshall plan project. Each time I see what American dollars and generosity are doing I get an added assurance that God will see to it that the West will soundly defeat Communism and vindicate the truth that RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION. Yes, I know there is plenty of unrighteousness in America but never theless mercies flow from the U. S. to every corner of the globe. On my two visits to Chang Sung Po I visited the Canadian nurses Sandell and Burns and enjoyed their British tea. On one visit I had Lt. Ronald Seaton with me, young surgeon in our local hospital, son of Presbyterian missionaries in Heinan who hopes to join the Korea mission upon his discharge from the army. I'm sure he'll make a fine addition to our medical staff. He tells me of midnight appendectomies, etc., when American surgeons and nurses are roused from their beds to care for the POWs. Imagine any American prisoner of the Reds getting such attention. The American Bible Society has had printed in Japan 150,000 copies of a pocket Korean New Testament which we shall have to offer every POW if and when they are released. And a like number of bi-lingual Korean-English hymnals. Among the news items in the write-ups of the death of King George and the proclamation ~~was approved by members of the lords~~ ~~privy council and other principal gentlemen of quality~~ of Elizabeth as new ruler was this interesting sentence: "The proclamation was approved by members of the lords privy council and other principal gentlemen of quality". I enjoy 'gentle' of quality". There doesn't seem to be too much quality in the world today but we trust that by God's grace we'll assume more and more a Christ-likeness. So far as I'm concerned among these POW's are many choice souls, real gentlemen with principle and enduring quality.

Cordially

Harold.

Millers ✓  
Reiners ✓  
Sharrock ✓  
Chambers ✓  
Hayes  
Bruens ✓

Chaplain Hafold Voelkel  
U. N. POW Camp #1  
A.P.O. 59, c/O Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

February 19, 1952

Dear Everybody:

You all would be interested in this group, this place, and the conversation going on. We are sitting around a barrel stove in the Presbyterian House in Pusan catching up on activities around the country, Bruce Cumming, young Joe Hopper and Petrie Mitchell of the So. Pres. Mission, Ed Kilbourne and Paul Haynes of the Holiness Mission, Harry Hill and myself of "our" Mission. The wood burns quickly for its quite cold outdoors and the flimsy wood and paper wall partitions of the Japanese house are very little protection against the elements. But there is both physical and spiritual warmth in the gathering for its good to get-together and learn what's going on in other parts of the country. I might just add that last night the bucket of water in the "bathroom" froze. Ed Kilbourne should be given special mention for arising at dawn this morning to start a fire in the wood stove. It certainly would not be easy to care for a family during the winter in a set-up like this. Well, let me explain that Bruce Cumming and I are over from Kujedo Island to attend a regional Protestant Army Chaplains' Conference. The program which sought to acquaint missionaries and chaplains on the one hand and the chaplains with each other on the other included addresses by Dr. Frazier, Canadian, and Hyung Ki Lew, new Methodist Bishop. Frazer sketched recent missionary experiences in the country and I think I give you some details of Lew's remarks for they were considered very good by most everybody. Lew took the subject of the Korean's present day attitude, pointing out that after all the encouragement given him by the presence of the huge U. N. Army the average Korean was confident that the country would be freed of the invader and have peace established in the land. But as a result of what most natives consider a ~~yaddadd~~ of the U. N. negotiators at the Cease Fire Talks to the Reds a deep despondency has overtaken the people. Rightly or wrongly, said Lew, the Koreans feel they are being sold down the river, that the U. S. Forces are planning to get out and after they are gone the Reds will certainly overrun the country and blood will flow freely. This dire prospect, Lew continued, explains the thieving and dishonesty on the part of the poor, the graft and reckless living of the war-profiteers; ~~the~~ many who are living only for the present, whereas the Christians with the faith and confidence in the right that God has given them rest in ~~the~~ His faithfulness. He quoted the killed as 2,000,000 since the Russian attack and 8,000,000 refugees. Concerning the Church Lew mentioned the establishment of both the Methodist and Presbyterian Missions at the same time when Dr. and Mrs. Appenseller Methodist and Dr. Underwood Presbyterian bachelor arrived together. Since the Methodist therefore started with twice the Mission we did, Lew regretted that his group didn't maintain that numerical superiority through the years! First time I heard it put that way. But then it surprised me greatly to have him say that as a policy over the years the Methodists had stressed education whereas the Presbyterians had emphasized evangelism. I'm merely quoting Lew now. The result is 500 Methodist churches, 2,000 Presbyterian. Now to go on with the fire-side chat, the So. Presby. from Kwang Ju and Chun Ju told about the recent clean up campaign of Red guerillas by the Korean army. Thousands of Reds were killed so the reports go, and thousands of people were taken prisoner. Whole villages suspected of being Red were rounded up, women, children, and old men too, and housed in grain warehouses surrounded by barbed wire. Sickness has broken out and 150 cases were brought to the Chun Ju Mission hospital. With the conclusion of the "clean-up" the troops left and with their departure guerilla activity is starting up again, 5 or 10 here, larger groups elsewhere raiding, stealing, killing. Quite a problem, isn't it? Here's a more pleasant note. Some American sent two frying chickens as a gift to one of the Chun Ju houses where they were prepared for dinner that night. Pete Mitchell shot a pleasant one on a trip and prepared it. Somebody else shot three geese and figured he'd surprise the crowd all eating to-



gether. Total none missionaries and eight birds for dinner. I trust no So. Presbyterian will diminish his gifts at this report Our Chaplains' Conference kept us away from the Choo Do Sik, memorial service for Horace Underwood held by the Christian University. John Underwood came down for it. Its just a year since his father's death. In talking with John I mentioned his being the only missionary in our group who had not yet left the country since the invasion to which he replied that he was going to break his record and visit Japan in April to attend his sister Grace's wedding to an army doctor, son of Missionary parents from Madagascar, I believe. Sorry I can't give you his name. I personally feel greatly indebted to him for his four stiches in my wife's face who recently had an auto accident. The army bus in which she was riding stopped suddenly to avoid hitting a boy on a bike and threw Gertrude across the isle shaking her up considerably and cutting a gash on the side of her eye. I'm certainly grateful it was not more serious which it could very easily have been. Han Kyung Chik dropped in for a visit in the afternoon and his smile is a tonic for my soul. He had been up to Seoul ministering to the congregation there for his people are part there, part in Taegu and part in Pusan. The attendance in Seoul is some 850 Sunday mornings and 150 at night. That out of a congregation of 4,000 shows how scattered they are, It is very difficult financially in Seoul for wholesale returning to the city is not yet permitted and the people there are largely women, children, and old people who did not flee at the approach of the Reds, individuals without any income to speak of. There's very little business there Han says. His orphanage is filled and they have two now, one in Seoul and one on Jay Joo Daw. And, listen to this, his congregation has established Tabitha Home, an institution for the widows and orphans of martyrs. At present there are 22 widows and 82 children, an average of three children to the family. How incredible that a congregation entirely refugee itself should in its own difficulty be able to organize and care for others. These figures are released by the Korean Government; total number of orphans in So. Korea, 210,000 of which only a tenth are being cared for, the rest wandering here and there during a cold winter. From time to time I've spoken of new denominations starting up in Pusan which since it is the temporary capitol is the logical place to get going. Sure enough a Korean church leader of not too great gifts who has been insisting that his missionary brethren send him to America, but never got to go, lined up with one of the new groups and is now to get the coveted trip. A tongues movement mission is seeking logistical support so it can establish a work here and who can tell what all we are in for with the attention that the war has drawn to this troubled land. Otto De Camp has become the particular target for thieves. Some smooth individual slipped into his room in the Pusan house and got away with his new sheepskin coat and a pair of good shoes. And also a pair of Stan Soltau's shoes who was visiting at that time. Being a Japanese house shoes are removed at the door. Then on a trip to Seoul while the guest of Methodists at Tae Jun, a thief came into the room where the three brethren, Otto, Karl J. dy, and L. A. Anderson were sleeping and just about cleaned them out. Otto's score I heard was two cameras, an overcoat and his trousers. What a haul and what a loss, but there is to my mind a rich compensation. For men to be able to sleep through any such operation is abundant testimony to clear conscience! Ed Kilbourne gave a missionary address recently to a group of G. I.s and when he finished one of them requested Ed to teach the cannibals how to eat their victims with a knife and fork.

Cordially,

Harold.

Waller ✓  
Reiner ✓  
Shannon ✓  
Shannon ✓  
Hayes ✓  
Bruena ✓  
C. A. Clark ✓  
R. K. Smith

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
U. N. POW Camp #1  
A.P.O.59, e/c Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

February 29, 1952

Dear Friends:

You have all doubtless seen accounts of the riots here that resulted in a number of POW deaths and one G. I. fatality. The Communists at Pangmunjon are making a lot out of it. The write-up I saw in the STARS AND STRIPES which is what the American newspapers have most likely carried gives the facts. I haven't any details to add excepting that I've preached in that compound numbers of times, held large outdoor meetings, and shown the Moody film GOD OF CREATION (Korean edition) one summer evening when nearly everybody in the place attended. But the Reds got the upper hand and conditions became so difficult for the Christians we transferred them to more congenial quarters sometime ago. I heard the shots the morning of the riot and later saw the ambulances carrying the dead and wounded to the hospital. I have since visited the wounded in the hospital and witnessed to them. There may still be some Christians in 62 who because of the Red control are having to exercise caution but our experience has been that when the pressure is relieved they emerge with their faith stronger than ever.

While I'm on the matter of riots in the camp let me say that several news papers' articles I've read from time to time of POW life here in papers from the South, Middle West and East of the U. S. A. have been misleading and for the most part untrue. One particular clipping from a Boston paper I'll never forget for it gave the impression that killings were taking place daily and just about all day long. Quotations were given to the effect that feeling was bad between the Americans and Koreans on the one hand and between Communist Koreans and Rightist Koreans on the other, and that each group displayed its dislike of the other through clubbings and shootings that kept the place in a constant turmoil. Also, the camp here is pictured as miserably dirty hole, dull, drab and unsightly, devoid of any comforts conveniences or attraction whatever.

Now let me give you briefly some facts that will quickly dispell any such notion. To begin with, believe it or not the POWs are awakened in the morning with music broadcast through amplifiers over each compound. I live near the Chinese and their slumbers are terminated with such old favorites (to us) as THE WHISTLER AND HIS DOG, THE BLUE DANUBE, 'WAY 'WAY DOWN SOUTH, and POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE. Don't be too hard on the program committee, the point is its music and it should help get the day started cheerfully. Then the prisoners given a meal which is as good and probably better than most Korean (and Chinese I dare say) are able to afford. For a samble of civilian living costs let me cite this: the pastors who work with me get the highest wage rate on the island, 250,000 won a month but rice is now 53,000 won a mal. My men require an average of eight mal a month so you can see at a glance that the going is hard economically. I might add that I supplement their salaries nearly 100% but even then I doubt if each member of their families gets the high calery content the POWs do. I ate with POWs again yesterday at noon and had a very substantial meal of mixed rice and barley, bean-sprout soup with chunks of beef in it flavored with red peppers. I enjoyed it so thoroughly I finished before the pastor who was with me and he remarked, "You must have been hungry to have finished before I did". The round faces and the well developed bodies of our "guests" show how good and nourishing the chow is. O. K., we've now got the prisoner awake and fed. Then some will go out on work details and some will go to school, and it is in connection with these schools that Will Kerr and Dexter Lutz carry on. The curriculum includes reading and writing for the illiterates, Laubauch Schools, on the literacy principles established by the Phillippine missionary Dr. Laubauch. Also,

arts and crafts for those interested. The results are amazing. From time to time the different compounds give exhibitions of the work done in the classes and the accomplishments are incredible, including for example a whole railroad system, roadbeds, tracks, locomotives, cars, switches, & signals, stations, bridges, everything. All made in the camp. The artists go in for representations of scenic and historic spots like the Diamond Mountains with rugged crags, lakes, water-falls, trees - all as realistic as can be.

I think I've mentioned the gifts of finger rings various groups have given me which they've learned to make here, beautifully designed and engraved. Several months ago the Board sent out sets of forty Bible pictures, the kind we used to have illustrating the golden text of the Sunday School lesson. All forty of them have been done in both oil and water in the art classes. There are carpenter shops, tailor shops, blacksmith shops and barber shops with a tremendously varied output. Besides these the Christians go in for their Bible Schools and institutes, Bible reading, Bible memorizing groups. Naturally enough in these will be some bilious individuals who will refuse to avail themselves of their privileges and prefer to sulk in complaint against the management, food, educational program everything. I've forgotten to mention the medical treatment, the enormous hospital with American doctors and nurses and expensive drugs, the best and latest America has to give. No expense on X-ray or any other service is spared. Throughout the day teams play rugby football, basketball, and baseball. Films both educational and entertaining are shown frequently. Evening brings more music. A camp newspaper with reports of leading world events is distributed.

Now don't get the idea that this is a country club for it isn't, it's a POW camp but it ~~isn't~~ isn't the cannibalistic jungle wild-eyed reporters have misrepresented us to be in American newspapers. The other day I was giving an examination in the Old Testament Bible Correspondence Course on the section that includes Joshua, Ruth, Samuel and Kings. In a conversation with the fellows I learned that one of them had already finished the whole of the O. T. work and was prepared to take the entire exam. When I expressed surprise and gratitude he replied, "I'm certainly glad I was captured and became a POW for it was here I found Christ and have had the privilege of this Bible Study". I could have shouted for joy. He had decided to believe in one of our meetings when the camp was in Pusan. This island isn't "bleak" or a "dun-colored dollop" as reported by myopic correspondents. Many of the colored shots the G. I.s have of bays and inlets here will compare favorable with the picturesque anywhere in the world.

Well, there you have it people, the story of Kujedo. I had an inspiring meeting this evening with a room full of Korean troops who guard the POWs. We had a fine fellowship and after the meeting on my way down to my hut I heard them singing in their barracks, "Only Trust Him, Only Trust Him, only trust Him now, He will save you, He will save you, He will save you now".

Cordially

(Signed) Harold Voelkel

millers ✓  
Reiners ✓  
Sharrohs ✓  
chummen ✓  
Hayes ✓  
Bruens ✓  
Clark  
Smith

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
U.N. POW Camp #1  
A.P.O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

March 9, 1952 (Sunday)

Dear Everybody:

I have just had the very great and rare privilege of entertaining three lady friends at dinner, Ada Sandell from Severance Hospital in nearby Dhang Sung Po Buelah Burns from Severance in Seoul, and Edna Lawrence enroute from America to Taegu. Buelah had formerly worked at the local Severance branch and brought Edna here for a visit. Fortunately I was on hand when they arrived having just returned from an afternoon meeting, so we began in proper British fashion by having a cup of tea. The first port of call was the POW hospital where Ada and Buelah had visited before and where they knew some of the nurses. On the way to and from the hospital we passed by compounds and Edna had an opportunity to see POW life at first hand. Some Christians happened to be standing by one of the church tents and waved as we passed. Edna remarked that she was seeing a sight many, many Koreaites would love to behold. The next call was to headquarters where Earl Woodberry and Bruce Cumming came out to greet the guests. They also met the Buddhist priest who is working among the Chinese who told us that he has two sisters who are Christians. What about that? May God use their testimony to move his heart to faith in Christ. We tried to find Dexter Lutz but he was out taking pictures. Then back to my outfit for dinner and deciding to eat here took real devotion on the part of the ladies. Even when they knew that we were to have liver here, they preferred coming here to either the hospital mess where there was a smorgesborg with turkey, ham, beef, cheese, etc., or to headquarters. But the welcome was warm here and the officers were all oordial to the first women guests we've had. The waiters have been told to always use "sir" when speaking to officers, "no sir", "yes sir", and not knowing any different they "no sir"ed and "yes sir"ed the ladies. It made us smile and Ada told about a Korean patient who'd been working with Americans who wanted to show off his knowledge of the language by greeting Ada with "good morning sargent" when she entered the room. The Korean's boss had been a sargent! I introduced my guests to my roommate, the Catholic priest and after dinner invited them to see our quarters. Wise old Roman rushed home after he finished eating and tidied up so that when the visitors entered the qunset my half of the hut suffered terribly by comparison. I've forgotten just what Edna said in connection with another mission members' room but the idea was that it was noticeable his wife wasn't around. What a difference wives make!

Ever since the riot compound 62 has kept up its furious and fanatical yelling and singing in an obvious attempt to wear us out, a real war on nerves. They gather along the fences and yell out their loyalty to the Red cause demanding the death of Syngman Rhee and the Americans, etc. We've gotten somewhat used to it now but today when I went over to hold a service in nearby 64, I found that while 62 was yelling on the one side to 63 and on the other to 64 these two Rightist compounds were both yelling back loyalty to South Korea, and the U. N. REMEMBER NOW, THIS IS NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR QUOTED. Flags and banners were flying on the Rightist side and they were as worked up as the others. In all the other compounds business goes on as usual and churches we are now beginning to celebrate our first anniversary. Already we've had two celebrations and we'll keep going I suppose until we've made the rounds of all 20. At the first affair there was an orchestra, or band I suppose I better call it, made up of a trumpet and tröpone we've supplied, two violins, three clarinets, a bass and kettle drum the POW's made. The effort in making the instruments was wonderful, of course, but when they got started neither the time nor the melody was particularly clear and only when they got about half way through was I able to identify the number as "All Hail the Power of Jusus Name". Part of the ceremony is the reading of the church's history and it is amazing to hear all that has been done. What activity and how care-

fully they have recorded it. At the meeting the other day I took as my text the words, "Fear not", that were given to Abraham in Genesis and to John in the Revelation and also to the nation of Israel in Luke. I tried to show that God's message throughout the Bible in crisis times to both individuals and nations was "Fear not", and that the basis for such confidence and peace was "Unto you is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."

The Japan Bible Society has done us the very great kindness of printing 5,000 copies each of both the Old and New Testament Correspondence Course books. Its a superior printing job and Gertrude had them mailed to me APO/. You can readily imagine what my room looks like with this huge pile. And the price was right too. When the clerk of General Assembly saw a copy he wanted an equal number for the Church's use. The 150,000 copies of the pocket N.T.'s have begun to arrive and the other day I had the pleasure of presenting copies to both the leader and the spokesman of the troublesome 62 compound. May its message grip their hearts.

The first casualty among the Korean Chaplains has been announced, Yoon Kwang Sup, 29, graduate of Presbyterian Seminary, of the class of '50. He leaves a widow and two children living on Chai Joo Do. The other missionaries who attended the graduation dinner of that class will remember how realistically they faced their ministry, but how little we knew then what these young fellows would meet. Yoon was killed in battle at Kim Wha. I've been over to Pusan and picked up a few news tid-bits which maybe old by the time you receive this. Henry Appenzeller is on his way to America to attend a "strategic" conference. Mr. Brannon formerly of Kai Sung and Dr. Billings are coming out for six months intensive evangelism for the Methodists. Ed Kilbourne left for Japan for family health reasons. Maryella Talmadge is sailing soon to America to marry Ray Provost, former short-termer of our Mission, who is now finishing his seminary work at Princeton. A Mr. Osgood of the Assembly of God Church is arriving soon to open mission and found a native church. In Korean they are called, AW SOON CHUL KYO WHEI, Pentecostal Church.

Here is an invitation that was sent out by one of the compounds to officers to attend an exhibition:

#### WORDS OF GREETING

We have wasted our time without devoting ourselves to anything and have determined to have an Exhibition to make our senseless everyday life profoundly, for the memory of anniversary of the first of March. Please attend to the Exhibition! There will be budding of hope in our minds if you will come.

With warm and wonderful days like today the flowers will soon be budding and the hillsides pink with azaleas. Spring has come.

Cordially,

(Signes) Harold.

Millers ✓  
Reiners ✓  
Shankel ✓  
Chamness ✓  
Bruens ✓  
Ways ✓  
Clark ✓  
R.K. Smith

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
U.N. POW Camp #1  
A. P. O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

March 18, 1952

Dear Everybody:

Back to Pusan for the monthly Protestant Chaplains' meeting. The trip over from Kojedo was the roughest ever and it made us grateful to be able not to get seasick. After all that is a very humiliating experience - so unmanly and also so un-military!! I decided to stay at Presbyterian House rather than with the rest of the Kojedo Chaplains at a military billet for its always a lot of fun to catch up on Mission activities and upon arriving at the House was glad to see that Fran Kinsler was down from Taiku for some committee meetings. The deliberations kept him going all afternoon and then as we were starting out for dinner to the Officers' Mess I learned that Fran was taking the evening train for Taiku, really the Seoul train that leaves Pusan at 7, so there wasn't much time for conversation after all but we did cover some ground. Fran reports that the Church continues to flourish in all its work. Pastors are returning north and about a hundred are back to their congregations that extend almost to the front. A thousand are meeting in a Soo Wun Church; seven congregations in Tae Jun which was virtually destroyed in the summer of '50. Homes for widows and their children have been opened in Seoul, Taiku, and Kyung Ju. A three days class was held for 40 widows who are qualified to teach in Bible Clubs which will help them earn a livelihood and at the same time provide education for children not now in school. On Sunday's a truck takes groups of seminary students to churchless villeges and they report fine receptions, the unbelievers often invite them to the noon meal. Fran is impressed on his calls to government offices by the number of Christians in important jobs. Bill Taylor is dead a historic character who will be known to all old-Koreaites, the former Chevrolet agent. He died in Tokyo recently. After putting Fran on the train we returned home to find John Talmage and his sister Maryella unloading their jeep in front of the House, having just arrived from Chun Ju. John was putting Maryella on the plane the next day for Japan and ultimately for America to be married the end of May, I understand to Ray Provost. She stayed at the Chisholms and John came back to put up with us. Shortly the two Mackenzie sisters, Helen and Kathleen, of the Australian Mission called, having heard that Maryella would arrive. The Mackenzies, Helen a doctor and Kathleen a nurse are still surveying the land not finding it too easy to decide what they should do. There isn't any lack of opportunity for service, that's sure, in fact its the other way. First of all their mission not having any medical institution building here does not wish them to start anything new for this is no time for a building program obviously. So while looking around they have literally been besieged by U. N. Government agencies on the one hand and Korean need, overwhelming need, with small and inferior equipment and uncertain sources of support and in lining up with U. N. the opportunity for definite Christian emphasis is lost. The girls feel the best contribution they can make will be in training schools, preparing others rather than in the limited work they themselves can do. They gave an illustration of the value of training. A couple in their father's leprosarium had an untainted boy four years of age. Dr. Mackenzie saw that it wouldn't do to have that youngster around the place so she opened a children's home where this fellow grew up, became a dedicated Christian and now although a school teacher runs a children's home "on the side". Naturally the Mac. sisters have known this fellow through the years and have been visiting his home and the other day when visiting with the children the teacher put his hand on the head of one of the orphans and said, "In 20 years he'll be like me", helping others. One half of the total health program of the South Korean Gov't is being spent on lepers. 14,000 in institutions and 45,000 wandering over the country.

Rice has now reached the incredible price of 70,000wun a mal. The rate of exchange dipped down a bit this week when the Gov't made dollars available to foreign merchants for certain purchases but this morning it was back again to W 13,000 for a dollar. The Presbyterian, Methodist, and Holiness pastors ought to ~~XXX~~ look quite fashionable this Spring for the Boards representing those churches pooled a fund to buy Spring suits for the clergy and the house here was piled up with part of the 1,200 to be distributed. A practical gift nicht wahr? When John Talmage returned from the airport he had Herb Coddington (M. D.) of his mission who had arrived on the plane that took Maryella to Japan. That brought up the occupants to the goodly number of five in this house hold and since steak, gripped steak, French fries, tomatoes, peas, carrot and raisin salad, and lemon morangue pie were on the menu at the officers mess, we got two tables together and with Bruce Cumming and Earl Woodburry had a wonderful meal. Delicious steak - could have cut it with a fork. We're all grateful for our blessings, but my guess is most of the men would prefer ~~cdrned~~-beef with their families.

At the Chaplain's Conference yesterday afternoon the speakers were Dr. Abernathy of the Southern Baptist Mission and Han Kyung Chik. It seemed strange to me to have Abernathy introduced "Baptist" as a Korean missionary but its a fact. Last month the Korean speaker was Hyung Ki Lew, you'll remember. Han took as his address a sketch of missions in Korea, the Scriptures sent John Ross and the arrival of R. J. Thomas before the missionaries came, then the Appenzellers and Dr. Underwood, the great revival of 1907, the Independence Movement of 1910, the Shrine Crisis, persecution in the North under the Russians and the present suffering. He closed with an illustration that was moving. He told of climbing a hill in Sin wei ju in 1942 when the Japs were fiercest in their opposition. Looking over the city at his feet overwhelmed by the utter helplessness and misery of the Christians he was so depressed he put his head between his knees and wept. While in this beaten and baffled frame of mind God gave him a vision. He saw as it were the whole of Korea before him, countless villages, and in each village a white church in the center with a bell ringing calling the people to the House of God. It stirred his soul, his depression had gone, he had the inner assurance that God would see him and the Christians through. And now said Han that vision is still his inspiration to believe that God will bring us through this terrific ordeal to a conclusion that will mean life and blessing to the nation. Abernathy, formerly of China (30 years) told of being arrested and confined in his own house by the Japanese until taken to Cheeloo University, where other Americans were held. As the Jap. colonel took over he told Abernathy this house and all in it is mine and you can take out only your personal things that fit into that suitcase. Abernathy was repatriated on the Gripsholm, later took a job as advisor in China to a U. S. agency and was in China when the Japs surrendered. He reached his home not long after and found the colonel still in possession. But how different. Abernathy repeated verbatim the colonel's words, "This is now my house and all that's in it" and the colonel remembered distinctly that that was what he had said. The force of the quotation went home to the soul of the Colonel and he listened most attentively to A's Christian appeal. And what a lesson for us here and now. Anything can happen, and it drives us all to renewed faith and prayer and hope for deliverance soon. "This is my Father's World".

Cordially

Harold.

Miller ✓  
Reiners ✓  
Shanahan ✓  
Hammer ✓  
Brown ✓  
Hayes ✓  
Clark ✓  
R. K. Smith

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
U. N. POW #1  
A.P.O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

April 5, 1952

Dear Everybody:

I've just been over to Pusan and have an item or two to pass along to my "new" family. But before I begin may I say that I am surprised to hear from time to time of the wide circulation these notes have and it would be a pleasure to hear from those of you who have been on the receiving end for months and perhaps years. You can send me an airmail letter for six cents which ought to stir you (!) to write immediately. Well, Spring has come, and as crowded as Pusan has been during the winter it seemed very much more so with everyone coaxed outdoors by the balmy sunshine. The streets are jammed-packed with people and it would help to have a halfback run interference to make time getting around. And despite the push of the crowds and the rush of traffic young Korea demonstrates its optimism and courage among other ways by the following: at the circle in downtown Pusan on the way to the P. X. where so much traffic is headed, two kids were whipping tops oblivious to speeding jeeps, trucks, trailers, etc. Real determination and non-challance, don't you think? I met Rev. George Anderson of the Australian Mission out for a two year term. Mr. Lane of that mission is returning to Australia for good. The Arch Campbells are leaving for furlough next month. The Hills are scheduled for furlough this summer. John Talmadge, So. Pres. Mission, is returning to the States next month. He has been alone in Mokpo. Petrie Mitchell, So. Pres. treasurer was at Presbyterian House on one of his regular visits. It is necessary to come to Pusan to get money changed. The rate this time was 14,000 won for a dollar. It had been up to 15,000 but dipped down a bit. Jim Phillips our treasurer arrived the morning I left. I met Scott and Frazer, Canadians, and learned from them of a change in Severance plans. The original plan had been for the Army to take over, rehabilitate and occupy the whole plant, and with that in mind Dr. Murray and Miss Burns, nurse, moved to Seoul. Much of the repair work of the hospital had been completed, but now the army is moving elsewhere and the UNCAC (successor to Marshall Plan) will take over and equip Severance for a capacity of 50 beds, 20 which will be reserved for orphans. Harry Hill and I visited Chisholms who are directing the work at the POW hospital Camp in Pusan - the evangelistic work. Six Koreans, Seminary students and Bible Women are helping them, and Bertha has been able to start a Bible Institute among the Women with a fine response. I think there are 46 students. On the boat returning to the island I met an officer who had the responsibility of installing the latest model X-ray machine for use in treating tuberculosis in the Pow hospital. With the construction of a special room for the machine it was estimated the installation would cost \$75,000.00. America is giving its best to treat and cure POWs. Would that their treatment of our men was as good. Have you seen the book BRAIN-WASHING IN CHINA, an expose of the techniques whereby the Communists change and manipulate the thoughts of their victims. We are rejoicing here in God's goodness to us as we approach Easter. We have a total of 2,100 examination, Catechumen and Baptism, and as for ~~err; a-because-pf-tje~~ formerly because of the large number cannot give them individually orally and must hold them to groups written instead. Bacon said, you'll remember, "Writing maketh an accurate man". All of the compounds have large plans for Easter, anthems, are being rehearsed, and in many of the congregations sunrise services will be held. The decorations, I ~~enagine~~ imagine will rival those of Christmas. What a hope the message of Easter holds for Korea in her grief and prostration. CHRIST IS RISEN, living and triumphant.

Cordially,

Harold



April 7, 1952

Dear Everybody:

God gave me such a happy day yesterday, Sunday, I feel I must write you another page, a postscript to the letter I sent out just two days ago. I was invited to preach the sermon at another compound celebrating its first anniversary and it turned out as the other anniversaries have, to be a time of great inspiration. The school building where we met was packed with numbers standing at the doors, a congregation estimated to be about 1,400. An elder presided, and after announcing a time of silent prayer the choir chanted. In most of the compounds where we have churches the Catholics also have groups and our men hear them chanting the old historic chants of the church and thereby catch on to a type of music heretofore comparatively unknown to Presbyterians. The choir yesterday of about 40 men was exceptionally good and put real feeling and precision into their work. I was moved by the beauty of their singing. We then followed through in the regular order of service and after my sermon on "Spiritual Growth", the past year's history of the church was reached I was then called out to receive a gift, an oil painting, a copy of Hoffman's (I believe it is) Christ in Gethsemane, two by three feet. I am deeply grateful for it, first for its excellence as a painting and also for the depth of its spiritual challenge. I used to have a copy of the picture in my study in Andong but lost it when our things disappeared during the war. After the service I found my car which I had parked inside the compound all decorated with flowers (artificial) in the shape of a large cross tied in front of the radiator from which over the top and around the sides of the car streamers of flowers were tied, a riot of color. Really comparable to a float I was anxious to get away for I've been eating quite a few meals in the compounds with great enjoyment but two weeks ago I picked up a bug somewhere and had a terribly severe attack of dysentery. With the aid of cloromiceton (Is that the way to spell it?) I got over it and have made a complete recovery but thought it the part of wisdom to keep away from native food for a while. But because of the urgency and love of their appeal and in view of the festive occasion I yielded and stayed and to my delight they had prepared dumplings which they know to be my very favorite dish. So I ate heartily and feel skipper today, in both body and soul. As I think back over the service, the sight of that crowd of men and realize the significance of such a time of worship in such circumstances thrills my soul. Around the table we discussed the first meetings just after they were captured and of the experiences that have brought into existence these thriving congregations. One of the fellows was from the same village as Han Kyung Jik, Bethany Church pastor in Seoul, a little farming community of 100 houses that has sent seven men into the ministry. I had to hurry on the afternoon service in another compound where things have not been too quiet in the past between Leftists and Rightists. For a while our men felt there was real physical danger. At that time our group numbered 350 but yesterday 1,000 were present at the service, hundreds of new believers you see, who made a decision for Christ DURING the time of danger and difficulty. "Revival is on" said the leaders and I could see what they meant. The sight of this second large and enthusiastic congregation stirred me further and I preached out of a heart of rejoicing in the goodness of God. I used a blackboard and drew three Chinese characters, RIGHTEOUS, HOLY, and SHIP, to illustrate how the basic truths of the Gospel are latent in their own language. We are made righteous through faith in the Lamb, enabled to live holily through obedience to the King, and sustained by the Word whose ~~xxx~~ truth is confirmed among otherways by the SHIP character that shows the story of the Noachic flood was known in ancient China. I don't know when I have enjoyed liberty in the HOLY SPIRIT. God certainly helped me, I feel sure, get His truth to the hearts of His new sons.

Cordially

Harold

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
U. N. POW Camp #1  
A.P.O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

April 15, 1952

Dear Friends:

Easter Day - a bright and blessed day. Rain fell in torrents on Good Friday and the wind blew so furiously we feared the Qunset would be carried off, but by Sunday the roads were dry, the sky clear and bright, and the day delightfully mild.

You will remember that three of the pastors who help in the Camp live in a village about seven miles distant, and each morning I take off at 7:45 to meet these three who begin walking, leaving their homes at seven. Our program for Easter called for services in twenty compounds, establishing catechumens, baptisms, and the observance of the Lord's Supper. The arrangements for the examinations actually took weeks and I can truthfully say that a thorough consideration was given to each man's fitness for the significant step he was taking. I mentioned last week that the large number made it impossible to give oral examination and we therefore resorted to written quizzes, with later personal interviews of the candidates. Nearly 700 applied for baptism and 1457 for the catechumenate. Finally 614 passed for baptism and 1397 catechumens. This reminds me of the remark of an American pastor visiting here some years ago who when he learned of our requirements for church admission said, "It is easier to get into Heaven than it is into the Korean Church." To which I replied, "Heaven is different from Korea". (and so is America).

The elements had to be prepared for 3,000 communicants, and because of a lack of cups ( we used paper ones previously ) it was decided to adopt the tincture method, the pastor dipping the bread into the cup help by the assisting elder and as he moves around the congregation places the dipped bread into the mouth of the participants. I had never tried this method before and wondered what the reaction of the Koreans to it would be. To my surprise and pleasure it met with complete approval all around. But I'm getting ahead of my story.

With three pastors in the Jeep station wagon we are driving over a pass and down the valley green with the freshly washed wheat and barley, in the clear air of a radiant Easter morning. What an inspiration. Near the camp we picked up two more pastors and shortly we were all in our assigned compounds ready for worship. We rotate from ~~Sunday~~ Sunday to Sunday, a plan that enables us to maintain a fellowship with all the groups. This time I was in the compound where the Christian leader was killed two days before Christmas by the Reds who resented his efforts to decorate the place with Christian mottoes. Since then the violent Communists have cleared out and sent to another compound and a revival has taken place that has brought hundreds into the church. When I arrived the church leaders were seating the catechumens and those to receive baptism on front fows at either side of the congregation. An artist in the compound, an unbeliever yet strange to say, had painted a huge representation of the institution of the Lord's Supper which provided an ideal background for the Communion Table. Promptly at nine, the scheduled time, we started. After a silent prayer, there was a response by a choir of 40, then a hymn, prayer, a trumpet solo (Gertrude's purchase, a gift of friends in the U S A ), and the sermon. I preached on the RESURRECTION, naturally, from Mark 9:10, "What the Rising from the Dead Should Mean", stressing the fact of the miracle of the empty tomb, its significance for our salvation, the confidence it gives of the ultimate victory of righteousness over sin, the assurance it provides of future judgment, and the certainty that is ours now of immortality. Then in turn we publicly examined the catechumens and those to be baptized. The large school building was crowded and the men were sitting so close together it was really difficult moving among them to give the baptisms. It required real physical exertion to squeeze between them packed in as they were so tightly on the floor. Considerable time too was required. I happened to look up at the elder, A POW, who was assisting me and he was so hot the per-

piration was dripping from his face. Also in the Communion service that followed, the elder and I had to push our way up one row and down the other. But what a fellowship. Praise God for the crowd and for the faith that packed these men into the building. With the doxology and the benediction the worship ended, truly a historic experience, gathering around the Lord's Table in a prison camp in Korea.

Heartily yours in Christ

Harold.

( Harold's postscript of April 7th arrived first, so I waited for his letter of April 5th which came several days later, this is the reason for the delay of these letters. R. J. McK.)

Taegu Korea, April 30, 1952

Dear Everybody:

Korean General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church is in session in Taegu. The Korea oldtimers would delight in the fellowship of these days. The weather has been perfect, the days balmy and bright, and every Christian can't help but be grateful at the evident blessing of God upon His Church. Progress is the watchword everywhere and the General Assembly takes on the aspect of a praise service. Hardship economically, uncertainty politically and other difficulties and problems are with us but God is here too and His faithfulness in the past gives us confidence for the future. You will be interested in the missionaries present. Among the Southerners are the Joe Hoppers, Senior and Junior, Pete Mitchell, Elmer Boyer; Australians Anderson and Lane; Canadian Frazer; Northeners Campbell, Hill, Kinsler, Decamp, Van Lierop, Rice, Voelkel. Quite a round-up isn't it? We're divided between the Campbell (Switzer) house and Bruen's old home. I'm writing this in the Bruen's and I've had an emotional experience being here for this is the first home in which Gertrude and I stayed when we first arrived in Korea.

The Assembly is going along nicely. With the Seminary problem that caused such terrible controversy settled there is nothing of particular seriousness to cause strife although some Northern pastors have stirred up some feeling by requesting that they be allowed to form separate Presbyteries within the already established southern Presbyteries. I say feeling has been created but it is not likely to result in the bitterness of former years when the unity of the church seemed threatened. Despite poverty throughout the church everybody seems to be here, pastors from all over who are not delegates but who came for the fellowship and inspiration of the gatherings. The men get around somehow despite the miserable transportation. Also, yesterday morning was the graduation of the Theological seminary and many came for that. What a ceremony it was. The large First Church was jam-packed, the sanctuary beautifully decorated with mottoes and flowers, and the graduates and faculty gowned like any American Seminary group. Arch Campbell the president set the precedent, distinguished and handsome man that he is. There were 106 graduates, and the year's work of the seminary is nothing less than a miracle when one realizes the handicaps under which it was done. Now listen to this it is a fact, incredible as it sounds: in the Adams house, across the road next Kae Sung School, which was used as a dormitory 180 seminary students lived. One missionary residence housed 180 men. And that doesn't stress the enormity of the size of missionary houses, for it isn't extra large, but it will enable you to understand what the fellows went through in order to get a ministerial training. From the basement to the attic every nook and cranny was occupied, even the closets. Two or three men slept in some of the closets.

The Campbells are leaving for furlough in two weeks and Arch who accepted the presidency of the seminary for one year only, resigned. Some days ago the directors met and asked him to consider staying on which he declined. Yesterday again the directors insisted that he hold the office even though he went on furlough. That is a favorable commentary on his work. The Koreans will next appeal to Dr. John Smith our Board secretary who is due here soon to consent to having Arch carry on. But the pace that both Arch and Fran Kinsler and all connected with the seminary have been maintaining is killing. So many people are waiting around day and night to see them they don't get time to eat regularly. Helen Campbell is here, the first "wife" to get permission to return. She arrived a few days ago and with Arch will sail to America from Pusan directly. I think I have alluded to what wives might say if they say the conditions under which these lonely husbands are living. I thought of my previous remarks when I first met Helen who commenting on the state of affairs said, (concerning the servant), "I think Kim Si chose the better part, to feed the men and launder their clothes but oh! the dirt!" Let me hasten to add that I don't think the house is so terrible filthy its more Helen's high standards! At least we'll leave it that way.

I haven't given you the names of the Assembly's new officers, the Moderator Kim Jay Suk from Kwang Ju, Vice Moderator Yi Wun Yung of Andong. I'm here not only attending G. A. but also enroute to Yung Chun, 80 li east of Taegu the railroad junction where one of the new POW Camps is being established. It is one of five, Yung Chun, Pusan, Masan, Kwang Ju and Non San. Doubtless news of this effect has appeared in the newspapers. Bruce Cumming is transferring to Kwang Ju where incidentally his wife is located and what about that for a Provisional arrangement to be assigned to reside with one's wife. The army does it right on occasion, doesn't it? We will doubtless have to be itinerating around from one camp to the other. It means quite an upheaval in our work but we are more or less used to that with the constancy of the changes among a group of men so large. Speaking of travel reminds me to mention that the other day when I enquired about the price of railroad tickets from Pusan to Taegu the pastor whom I asked smiled for the demand for tickets is so great and the supply so meagre it is necessary to stand in line from early morning until late in the day to be able to buy one. Since busy travellers don't have the time to wait in line that way the obvious takes place, a blackmarket in railroad tickets. By paying 25% more you can get a ticket from a blackmarketeer. While in this strain I'll have to tell of the series of robberies that the Pusan people have experienced lately. It's quite the topic of conversation these days. I've already told you of Otto DeCamp being robbed while in Tae Jun at the Methodist house there and then previous to that while Stan Soltou was here losing clothes and shoes. Early Easter morning thieves came to Pusan Presbyterian House while Harry Hill was alone and relieved him of two cameras, suit, wallet, keys, etc. A few nights later a policeman passing the house saw the back door open and upon investigation found a thief was in the house who escaped through the front door. An UNCAC ( successor to Marshall plan) jeep was waiting in front of the house obviously to carry the thief and the loot off, so the cop arrested the occupants and nothing has been heard since. Incidentally Harry Hill is a light sleeper you'll remember and only awoke after the visitor (the first one) had carried a load of stuff out. Harry saw the thief's flash light but that was all. The third time a thief got away with the spare tire and wheel in Otto's station wagon. Now Presbyterian House is ablaze at night with flood lights and equipped with a burglar alarm that is rigged up to ring bells, and it remains to be seen if perhaps the next item stolen will not be the new electrical equipment constituting the alarm! And the thieves are not respecters of denominations for last week they visited the Methodists in broad day light while Dr. Manikam, the Indian, Secretary of East Asia Christian Conference, was a luncheon guest and stole his passport and movie camera from the room next to the dining room. The night after that the Australians were visited. It must have been Commandos this time, for they brought crow bars to pry loose the heavy bars guarding the Mackenzie sisters' room. The thieves got away with a sewing machine and other varied loot. The sisters were away at that time. We may be brought to the necessity of establishing artillery units to guard our missionary residences! But please don't let this discourage any new comers from considering Korea. You're welcome. Really. Oh yes, the Seventh Day Adventists were visited last week too and Dr. Rue lost a new suit, but he's quite used to buggleries by this time. They had a number of unwelcome visitors in their homes in Seoul, a few years ago. But I mustn't sign off in this vein. We're guilty of robbery too. The other morning in our daily devotions in the POW Camp one of the Pastors told this experience of a day or two before. After a very busy Sunday when he was completely exhausted, a woman from the village came, late at night, to tell him that her little girl was suddenly taken very ill. Would Pastor Kim please come and pray for the child. He begged off, saying he was too tired after the services of the day, and promised to call the next morning. Kim's own thought was that the mother was unduly alarmed and anyway he was tired. But the next morning the child was dead and he confessed to us his shame at failing the mother in her need, Kim felt disgraced before the community. I would not minimize the breakdown morally that all the thieving in Korea indicates but it does challenge us to search our hearts to see if there be any taking from others the ministry we owe them that is rightfully theirs to expect from us.

Cordially,

Harold

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
U. N. POW Camp #1  
A. P. O. 59, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

May 3, 1952

Dear Everybody:

General Assembly has adjourned and here are a few details of the activities and decisions. As I wrote previously it was evident from the first that the Conservative group had a large majority; their candidate was elected on the first ballot for Moderator by a 2/3 lead over the next highest candidate. However, lack of numbers did not keep the minority from noisy demonstrations such as have detracted from the dignity and propriety of previous Assemblies although it must be acknowledged that the yelling and screaming was never confined to one side. The point is that this time the larger numbers of the Conservatives made it unnecessary for them to carry on as before, and by the second day the Liberals saw that their stalling and delaying tactics were getting them nowhere. I think perhaps I better get these unpleasant elements out of the way first and then conclude with happier and inspiring items. Overtures to the Assembly included complaints against both the Chosen Seminary and its leading professor Kim Chai Jun the Liberal theologian. After most regrettable fireworks, which a theological issue can arouse in any church group, it was decided to refer the evidences of Kim's departure from the faith to his Presbytery for action. This had been done before but it was expected that this time definite disciplinary action would be taken. Concerning the seminary it was decided that from now on no graduates of this institution would be ordained. Also, so many students have been entering the Presbyterian ministry it was decided that any graduates from these schools have to take a year's work in General Assembly's seminary before being ordained. Another issue aside from the Seminary one, which strangely enough caused considerable feeling and stirred up much heat, was the establishment of independent ~~xxx~~ northern Presbyterians by refugee congregations within the Southern areas. An "emergency Appeal" was submitted asking the G. A. to permit the notherners wherever they are, in Taegu, Pusan, Kojedo, anywhere to organize separate bodies, despite the presence within the bounds of an already organized Presbytery. The advantage of such a plan and its practicality seemed remote to the missionaries and not a few difficulties will very evidently be encountered in trying to work out but the Northerners were adamant and the South yielded. All of us had hoped that the presence of so many from the north here and their intermingling with the Southerners in the same congregations would help in ridding the Church of any vestiges of sectionalism but this idea can't help but intensify it. In both this discussion and the theological one the missionaries kept completely out of things. While speaking of the noise and confusion that arose from time to time I must add that in one of the sessions an elder not a delegate got a vision and standing up with outstretched arms yelled, "The Holy Spirit Commands, the Holy Spirit commands". Soon friends quieted him and sat him down but it was another phenomena in a gathering of earnestly dedicated men who under the pressure and tension of the days must be permitted liberties that groups in normal circumstances could not expect to receive. After one impassioned address in behalf of the inspiration of the Scriptures visitors to the Assembly broke out in applause. An elder spoke up urging self-control and suggested that to those who wished to laugh that they laugh inwardly and those desiring to weep should do it inwardly!

Many of the reports of the committees are historic and awaken deepest praise. Yi Tae Yung missionary to China whose family is still there told of the hardships of the Korea missionaries in Shandung, of the difficulty of getting money to them, illness, etc. Yet despite trying conditions the work goes forward and during the past year two new churches were built. It amazed all of us to hear how they've succeeded in carrying on a correspondence with those in China but they do it ~~xxxx~~ somehow. Yi Yung Sul, president of Severance gave an inspiring account of their work both on Kojedo of which I've written you, in Seoul and Wunju. Finally I wish I might get across to you the vigor and enthusiasm of the Church.

The Seminary budget for next year is a hundred million Wun (\$10,000.00) no mean sum for an infant institution only a year old. Fran Kinsler has been elected acting president during the coming year when Arch Campbell is on furlough. There are as I've stated above bickerings, rivalries and kx joking for power among some of the leaders of the church but we're on the march. The suffering that has come to the country has sanctified to the Christians the reality of Christ's presence and the certainty of His help and goodness. I can still hardly believe the report that there are now 3,000 Presbyterian churches in South Korea. Think of that! And the holy ambition of the brethren is amazing. They are now asking for a fund to help them in an overall evangelistic campaign that will DOUBLE the church, a hundred percent increase!. And please remember that this program is being made in the midst of terrible poverty and privation. Andong Presbytery sent in an appeal for help in a section of its territory where the people face a total crop failure. I heard this morning that around Tejun farmers were ~~be~~ being forced to sell their barley now its half grown condition, receiving a mere 500 Wun a pyung for it whereas they would get 5,000 for the same amount at harvest two months from now. The church gatherings always bring rich fellowship and with the passing of the years these ties grow more and more precious. I met many friends with whom I was formerly associated so closely and see now only once or twice a year at some church affair. Let me cite an example of the blessing of Christian fellowship from what I saw in the Campbell home last night. I've been staying with them during the Assembly. A day or two ago I overheard Arch ask Helen about a group that he wanted to have to dinner. "They say they haven't got any place to go" Helen readily consented and it happened that all the missionary guests eating regularly at the Campbells happened to be elsewhere that night. I had asked Edna Lawrence and Otto DeCamp to go with me to the Army mess hall. When I returned I found a group of fine clean-cut fellows Arch had referred to gathered around the dining room table and a second table in the living room. "Ah", I thought to myself, "That's the bunch Arch was speaking about!" I went to another room to spend the evening and at about 9:30 heard them singing. Who were they? Alumni of the little academy Arch ran on a shoestring for years in Kang Kei. They were his boys and being at the Assembly they must get together. Arch told me of each one reporting his experience getting from Kang Kei in the far north to south Korea, of all they had gone through at the hands of the Communists. But they had made it and there they were together once more. Finally they sang the school song and pledged themselves anew to the Lord Jesus whom Arch had held up to them in the years past in the little school.

Cordially,

Harold

May 13, 1952

Dear Everybody:

Please note new address:

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
4th Military Police Service Co. Provisional  
A.P.O. 301, c/o Postmaster,  
San Francisco, Calif.

✓ Miller  
✓ Rainer  
✓ Sparrows  
✓ Chambers  
✓ Green  
✓ Hayes  
Clark  
R. K. Smith

Greetings from Presbyterian House in Pusan. I am enroute from KOJEDO to my new assignment in Yung Chun, 26 miles east of Taegu, the railroad junction of the Andong-Taegu and Taegu-Kyung Ju lines. I imagine you are all waiting for the "inside dope" on the Kojedo capture of the General. I was there when it happened but I don't know that there is much to tell. It created quite a stir in the camp you may be sure for the Reds have been so brutal in the past, examples of which I've written you, there was no telling that they would not kill their captive. The reaction of most civilians is, "why didn't the Americans troops go right in after him?" But that isn't as easy as it might first appear for the likelihood is that any show of violence on our part would have resulted in violence on their part. It doesn't take a Red long to club or strangle a man to death. No one could be exactly sure where they would have the general at any given time for they kept moving him around. Observers with glasses from a tower counted a total of 16 times the Reds moved their prisoner in one day. Moreover, if the Americans entered the compound by force and killed a number of POW's, whether many or few, the details would be broadcast as a "massacre" by the Pangmunjum propogandists. As the "Stars and Stripes" reported here, telephone wire was sent into the compound so a contact could be established between the general on the inside and headquarters on the outside, and we were receiving reports continually of the good treatment given him. Why the General stood where he did at the gate of the compound where the Communists could capture him is the question the Army authorities are investigating now and which no one but the victim can answer. Everything was in readiness as General Ridgeway announced to enter the compound by a show of force, an action that would have been no insignificant operation as you can appreciate. Obviously it would have endangered many American lives for once the shooting starts no one could be certain a number of our men would not be hit, a prospect that gives a commander pause. Altho this makes us all that much more grateful that General Dod was able to talk his way out. Thus another chapter of this interesting if not turbulent experience closes. What weeks and months (and almost two years now) this POW ministry has been.

As the newspapers in America have doubtless announced the Rightist POWs, which obviously includes all the Christians, have been transferred from Kojedo to five camps on the mainland, Kwang Ju and Non San in the west, Yung Chun in the east, Masan and Pusan in the south. We five D. A. C. chaplains, three Catholics and two Protestants, Bruce Cumming and myself, are being assigned, one each to the five camps and as I said above I am headed for Yung Chun. Bruce Cumming has the "distressing" necessity of having to move to and live in Kwang Ju where his wife is! What about that for kindly Providence. The Chinese are in Chey Ju Do, Quelpart, and of course Earl Woodberry is there with them. Needless to say this splitting up of the family, this separation from so many of my companions of the years now, is quite a wrenching of heart to me and I feel I must somehow get around to see them from time to time. The hope and expectation was that the Cease-Fire Talks would accomplish an armistice and would enable these men to be released.

On Sundays a "Union Church Service" is held around at the Australian House, Methodist House, and here alternately, and last Sunday we met with the Methodists with Dr. Billings the preacher. How well and spry he looks at 71. And the same is true of Dr. Brannon. These veterans carry their years lightly and it seems strange to us "younger" missionaries to think of these men as being in their seventies. Pete Spitzheit, Methodist, was in this afternoon and told of a visit to a church north of the 38th parallel only 19 miles from the front.



The whole area was levelled as far as buildings was concerned from the fighting of course, but the congregation was carrying on. Children were gathered on the concrete foundation of where the school building once was to study.

Yesterday I asked the fellows here, Otto De Camp, Harry Hill, and Ed Kilbourne to the army mess for dinner and on the way down we saw Peter VanLierop trudging his way to the house. He had sent word that he was coming but the rush of things everyone forgot to send to the station for him. We picked him up and took him along and got details of the terrible famine that has overtaken the localities in the Andong area. The crops in these places were a total failure last Fall and the little the people have been able to get to eat from the government or elsewhere has gone long since. Pete at General Assembly time approached the UNCAC authorities ( United Nations Civilian Assistance Corps) successors to the Marshall Plan to do something and arrangements were made for a group to visit the effected areas. The suffering is dreadful. The group visited numbers of houses and saw children dying, shriveling up and so weakened from lack of nourishment they couldn't stand up. Only half the Christians in the local congregations have strength enough to attend church services, and some schools have discontinued sessions for three months because the children haven't been strong enough to walk to school. UNCAC promised to help out with food, and Pete is down here on a private round up of both food and clothing. He reports having succeeded in getting 50 bales of clothing from Church World Service and 80 bags of flour. Our Mission's Executive Committee authorized him cash enough to buy a truck load of grain for distribution. These sound like large amounts and Pete is grateful to be able to take the two truck loads with him but as generous as the 80 bags of flour are, for example, dividing it among ten localities will mean a mere 8 bags which won't provide nourishment very long. The sights along the streets of terrible poverty and the awful reports of individual causes that come to us are crushing to one's spirits. Paul Haynes of the Oriental Missionary Society arrived today by plane and visitors have been in to see him. He just came in to tell me that he is actually weak physically from hearing of the needs of so many who are so close to him and not being able to do much about it. Inflation continues soaring. Rice is now 105,000 won a mal, practically three times what it was last January. The rate of exchange is now more than 16,000 won for a dollar. Last night Otto DeCamp wrote out a check for 338 million won! Some financing, isn't it?

I failed to mention in connection with the Pusan POW Camp that Harry Hill has kindly agreed to take two hours a day, as is also the pastor of Central Church Pyeng Yang. This is a great comfort to me since I can't be around these parts. If I can get some one to take hold of things in Masan the "parish" will be to a degree manned. Opportunities are pushing in upon us, more than we have time and strength for.

Arch Campbell was in town today making final arrangements for sailing Saturday night for furlough. He and Helen will sail from here on the FLYING DRAGON.

Cordially,

Harold

Miles ✓  
Reinders ✓  
Shanrock ✓  
Chamney ✓  
Hayes ✓  
Briens ✓

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
4th Military Police Service Co. Provisional  
A.P.O. 301, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

June 9, 1952

Dear Everybody:

Now that I'm stationed in Yung Chun I get into Taiky about once a week on a visit, and upon entering the Mission House I hardly recognized it. The explanation? Helen Campbell had completed her Spring house-cleaning. I think I mentioned before that at General Assembly time Otto DeCamp remarked it was evident that no woman had been around the place for sometime by the number of magazines dated 1950 still piled up on tables and desks! The rooms now look almost bare with so much of the accumulations of the months and years since the evacuation cleared away. Fran Kinsler spoke of Helen completing each day with "twelve baskets of fragments" to be disposed of, and at that rate you can appreciate what a different house this bachelor domicile became under the care and attention of a missionary wife. This is a tribute to her and a recognition of the contribution they all make to their homes.

Dr. Scott of the Canadian Mission who is on a visit to Japan and is meeting the members of the separated families of Korea missionaries said he was thereby fulfilling the injunction of James 1:27... "to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction". These separations are hardly afflictions but they are lengthening out to years now and yet there are few regrets for it is the price to be paid these days for the rich fruitfulness of the spiritual harvest God is giving us in Korea today. This leads to a reference to the outlook in our adopted land, for from both a military, political and economic consideration the prospect is not bright. Warnings are being given of the possibility of a Red attack, for with the approach of the rainy season conditions would be particularly favorable to them. Our highly mechanized forces would be bogged down and the air-force's effectiveness would be lessened. You recall that the initial attack was June 25, 1950, very shortly before the time the rainy season usually begins.

Politically the President Syngman Rhee is shocking us all with his dictator tactics. He is completely out of order in this and yet few will question the fact that he is the strongest man in the country and is the logical one for the nation's leadership. Four candidates among the legislators are active politically but none is especially well-known nor have they given any demonstration of the needed qualifications for the presidency. Rhee has the confidence and affection of the people. Also, if four candidates backed by four parties get going in a race for the office, confusion and division will result at a time when Communists through guerrilla activity are already boring from within and striving to divide and terrify South Korea. Economically prices are sky-rocketing following the fabulous rise in the price of rice. Some pastors salary is now a million won a month and that doesn't permit them any extravagance in living.

But let me get back to Taiky where we have a new-comer in the Mission, Tom Harnish, the new Mission treasurer. He comes from the church of Francis and Helen Rhodes Scott, Montrose, Pa., and is a former pilot in the airforce. His wife and two young sons, Tommy and Stevie, are living in a duplex in Tokyo with Elizabeth DeCamp and their children. Tom impresses us all as the man for the job. The Arch Campbells are back in America and Arch is to receive his D. D. from Beaver College. Congratulations Dr. Campbell! A doctorate might have been given you for any one of a number of accomplishments in Korea.

Doubtless all of you are reading about Kojedo in the papers and now the story can be told, that is many details can be given that I obviously could not write about at the time. And now having learned of the conditions

the brutality and murder that characterized life in many of the compounds of the POW Camp during the past months, you can appreciate more readily the depth of the faith of the Christians who remained true despite constant danger. Number of the Christians took their stand at the risk of their lives and their testimony is the more glorious because of it. And the end is not yet, for as you may have read in a Rightist camp where I am at Yung Chun three men were found dead one morning and fourteen badly beaten as a result of bitterness carried over from Kojedo. I am interested in the violence of the reaction against the camp authorities in many circles in America. Did you see TIME magazine allowed itself to refer to those involved in the General's capture as "boobs", and the article in this week's number is highly critical of the administration. For us the fact remains and the encouragement is that much greater that the Church has thrived and prospered despite persecution and danger. Great patience and steadfastness have been necessary from the beginning.

This is being written in Tokyo in the quiet of our home, and I can't tell you what a joy it is to be back with the family for a little visit again. The occasion is the graduation of our Jack from High School. Many of you will be interested in the activities of the days for it has been one of triumph for Korea. The exercises were held out of doors on the lawn of the Meguro High School, the former Tokyo American School, in the midst of a flower garden on a lovely afternoon, June 6th. The graduates were beautiful in their white robes and caps. A Japanese orchestra played for the processional, and students of the school chorus sang two numbers. The platform was decorated with much brass, including General Weyland, who has been nominated for his fourth star, father of one of the graduates. The missionary kids covered themselves with glory; Art Kinsler, termed the "brains" of the Senior class in the year school book, received the National Honor Society scholarship prize of \$500.00 and gave the salutatory. Praise God for the boy's speech. There in the presence of all the brass and distinction of Tokyo's highest he ~~clear~~ declared in a clear discussion of peace for a troubled world that there is no peace "aside from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ...Choose ye this day whom ye will serve, but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord". Numbers of the missionaries present said "Amen" silently, I'm sure. Eddie Adams, another graduate had been elected president of the Student Council and also as the "one most likely to succeed", and our Jack was the vice-president of the Senior class. Today these three are off on a picnic of the National Honor Society to which they had been elected.

Wonderful privileges of Christian fellowship have been theirs this year. A young missionary to Japan, Ken Clark, who works among Japanese High School students has given time to the American students of that age and each week has led a meeting for them in the home of some one of them, for the purpose of grounding these boys and girls in the faith and in a knowledge of how to use the Word in soul-winning. They have learned how to do personal work and are zealous in their individual witness among their school-mates for Christ. On Sunday evening a meeting called Chapel Teens is held in the downtown army Chapel Center, conducted by the young people themselves with guest speakers to bring inspirational messages. Testimonies are called for and expected and they have the ring of depth and genuineness. They are facing the challenge of a life lived for Christ, especially on the Mission field.

In two weeks, Lord willing, our four Korean boys, - Eddie Adams, Art and Ross Kinsler, Jack, with Jim Phillips of our Mission, are leaving on a British boat to return to America via the ports, stopping at Hongkong, Singapore, Rangoon, Calcutta, Bombay, Aden, Port Said, and on through Europe to N. Y. What fun they are having planning it and what a privilege it will be! We pray it will be the means of truly enlarging their world vision and increasing their awareness of the world's need. Eventful days lie ahead, for being

eighteen or reaching it soon, they all face the draft and all that means. May the Lord have His perfect will in each of their lives.

Last Saturday evening the Korea people, twenty-seven of us, gathered at the Presbyterian Mission House (DeCamps) for a time of fellowship. Olga Johnson and Kay Clark who are both leaving soon for America were up from Kyoto. Dr. John Smith, our Board Secretary for Korea, is arriving in Tokyo (or is already here) and when Ned and Sue Adams arrive in a day or two there will be an all-day meeting on Friday the 13th for a review of things and an opportunity to discuss plans for the work so dear to our hearts. And in the evening there is to be a Chinese dinner together.

Cordially yours

Harold.

( Dear Folk:

Again I have copied this letter from a mimeographed letter sent out by Gertrude and am sending it over the usual routes just in case some have not received a copy from Japan. I am sure you know these letters are mimeographed in Tokyo. Some have expressed a desire of having a copy of Harold's letters to keep. If so, I am sure if you would send postage to Gertrude she would mail copies to you. As she has APO privileges she can use U. S. A. postage. Her letter came to me in seven days on a three cent postage stamp. However, I will continue making copies, such as they are for those who may desire this method.

Sincerely,

Ranier Jck. )

G. V. Address: Washington Hts. Dep. mail, A.P.Ø. 500. c/o PM, San Francisco

Millers ✓  
Reiners ✓  
Shancho ✓  
Chamney ✓  
Huges ✓  
Bruens ✓

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
4th Military Police Service Co Provisional  
A.P.O. 301, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

June 20, 1952

Dear Everybody:

Still in Tokyo on leave, begrudging the passing of each day and hour with the family and Korea Friends. There's certainly never a dull moment here for it seems that some Korea meeting or reception, a gathering of one kind or another brings the bunch together continually. A few days ago all turned out to dinner at the FIRBIDDEN CITY? (really not so firbidding), a Chinese restaurant, to welcome Ned and Sue Adams and Reuben Torry newly arrived from America. After the schedule the Ned and Sue had been following in the U. S. I expected to see them tuckered out, but due to the boat trip, I guess, they both looked tanned and well, and just having come from the "land of milk and honey" provided us with the sight of a well-dressed couple. That's part of a missionary furlough anyway, isn't it, stocking up on clothes for the five years ahead. I didn't exercise the missionary prerogative of feeling the cloth in Ned's suit and asking how much it costs!

Marion Hartness presided at the dinner and introduced a number of guests of honor. First came Gerda Bergman and Lillian Dean Miller who are both retiring. Gifts of a tea-set were presented to each and in their acceptance speeches they told of the joy of the years in Korea and of the difficulty in quitting now when the need is so great and the workers so few. They will be greatly missed and it will be years before anyone is ready to take their places. Then the four High School graduates were asked to stand, Art and Ross Kinsler, Eddie Adams, and our Jack. Ned as the Chairman of the Mission gave them a farewell greeting and presented them with the traditional gift of a Bible to take to America with them. (Ross has one more year of High School but is returning to the States with Art). Ned then briefly spoke of his impressions of the year at home, first the pressure of work in the Board rooms and the pace the secretaries maintain to keep the work going on the field; second, the great interest of the Church at home in Korea; and third, the difficulties the home pastors face in their tasks without the sympathy that we get in being overseas.

The speaker of the evening was Reubin Torry, long a missionary in China, who is on his way to Korea at the head of a team to help amputees. Reuben lost his right arm in an auto accident some years ago and out of the tragedy of his own experience understands the plight of the thousands of war victims in Korea for whom little or nothing is being done. He helped me understand what I never appreciated before about amputees, namely, that aside from the loss of an arm or leg as terrible a loss as that is, the difficulty of making an adjustment to the new circumstances of life the loss has brought, is crushing. The team therefore will attempt to equip amputees with artificial limbs, will seek to teach them skills in connection with the Taejun (Taiden) agricultural project, and will challenge them spiritually with the Gospel. Dr. Paul Crane of the Chun Ju hospital is giving generously of his institution to this work, Thelma Maw, Methodist nurse and phusio-therapist, will be on the staff, two vocational therapists, Yale men, will be out soon, and Sue Adams is to be "Handy-man". When I asked Ned how Sue was able to get permission to go to Korea when other women in the Mission are being turned down, he smiled and replied that she was going as "Reuben Torry's assistant". Incidentally, the Presbyterian House in Pusan, thus far a bachelor quarters, has been made suitable for the Adams' occupancy.

The next day a luncheon was served at the DeCamp-Harnishes to meet Dr. John Smith, Presbyterian Board Secretary for Korea, now on a visit to Siam, Philippines, Hongkong, Japan and Korea. He was asked to tell what he picked up in Hongkong and reported that ten Presbyterian missionaries are still in China, some under house arrest with quite a few privileges, others living in exceedingly difficult straits. If you have read "BRAIN WASHING IN CHINA" you'll appreciate the devilish procedure the Red's employ to break a man's spirit and

ake him the automiton they want him to be. Missionaries have not been spared this cruelty and some have cracked up. John mentioned encouraging signs of opposition to the Red regime, but nothing would indiate an immediate overthrow of the Reds. There is word to the effect that the Christian leaders who first spoke up for the Reds two years ago to the embarrassment of the Church, have come to a sad end.

Romance has budded again. The Lutz' have announced the engagement of Carol to Dick Underwood. Dick who has been an interpreter at the Cease-Fire talks is due to return to the States the end of the summer and they are to be married before he returns. Dick expects to continue his studies in the U. S.

I'm wondering if you all get the significance of certain news items tucked away in the papers nowadays. For example, I saw an Air Force report a few days ago to the effect that 1200 buildings in North ~~EMAK~~ Korea had been destroyed that week. That's good news as far as the war goes, for it represents that much more Red material done away with, but that week's bombing toll doubtless took years to build and represents a terrific loss economically in the future rehabilitation of the country. What I'm driving at is that the longer hostilities continue the more completely the land will be leveled of all property, and the more desperate the outlook becomes. How little there will be for the refugees from the North to return to! Peace will bring the liberty to go back to ruins.

This visit to Tokyo has given me the opportunity to check on the work of some of the Missions that began after the war. I had a couple of visits with David Morken who is heading up "Youth for Christ", and I learned that they conduct street meetings for young people each Saturday evening, and once a month have a Rally in the largest hall they can secure. Last Saturday 2000 attended the Rally and more than a hundred responded to an invitation to accept Christ. An officient follow-up system is conducted and about one third of the converts continue in a Bible correspondence course based on the "Navigators" program. "Youth for Christ" has a fine new building with broadcasting facilities in the heart of the Tokyo University center. The other night someone smashed the head-lights and windows of their Chevy-~~XXXXXX~~ carry-all with a hammar as a reminder that ~~opposition~~ opposition to the Gospel still exists in Japan. Reds, who have been stirring up violence lately, ~~may~~ have been guilty. Quite a few Koreans participate in these Red outbreaks and the other day when Jim Phillips visited the Diet a member told him that a group in the Japanese Legislature wish to deport all Koreans because of the trouble they are causing. The trouble-makers make it hard for all their compatriots.

For the past weeks a Dutch ovengelist, Miss Corrie ten Boom, has been having a most helpful ministry in Japan. She was a watch-maker in Holland and during the war was active in the Dutch under-ground helping Jews and other Nazi victims to escape. She and her aged father and sister were arrested and had a horrible experience in a Nazi concentration camp. Her father and sister died as a result of the treatment and she frankly admits it was "hell" but through-out her imprisonment she had a rich spiritual ministry. Her witness is thrilling and I wish we might get her to Korea for she would be an inspiration to the women there. Out of her suffering and triumph she could comfort and encourage Korea's Christian women.

Heartly,  
Harold.

Dear Friendsk

Gertrude Voelkel has written asking for this mailing list and suggesting that all mail be handled from Tokyo. In many ways it will be more satisfactory as each will receive a copy for which many have expressed a desire. If in the future copies from Tokyo are not obtainable, I will be glad to do the best I can in sending out the few carbon copies as I have been doing the past two years. Just how the expense is to be handled I do not know.

Thanking you for your cooperation in the past and trusting that these letters will continue regularly, I am

Sincerely

*Ranier J. Kuzio*

Gertrude's address:

Mrs Harold Voelkel  
Washington Heights Dep. Mail  
A. P. O. 500. c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
4th M.P. Service Co.- Provisional  
A.P.O. 301, % P.M. San Francisco, Calif.  
July 14, 1952

Dear Everybody,

Things are humming here, getting all the C.I.s (civilian Internees), formerly termed POWs, ready for release. They are given medical examinations, finger-printed, and issued new clothing and shoes. And as I mentioned before, they get 30 days rations when released. I've been going down to the railroad station to see them off. They are a singing, jubilant bunch, waving flags and banners, with colorful bands tied around their caps on which are painted two Chinese characters, "Destroy Communism". The Christians call out to me as they board the cars, thanking me for our ministry among them, and I must confess I'm moved by the sight of so many going, for it is getting lonesome after having been with them for nearly two years. The compounds and our services are beginning to show the effects of the departure of thousands, and within a couple more weeks almost all will have gone. Letters are beginning to arrive from those who have already reached home telling of the fine reception they've received in their native villages and of their happy return to their churches.

The Korean government is making quite a thing out of this operation by having the governors of the provinces, mayors, and other local dignitaries on hand when the trains bearing the C.I.s reach the various release areas. Many of the fellows feared they would be social outcasts after two years in a POW camp, and this kindly reception is therefore all the more appreciated. In Taikou a few days ago where the men from this province were taken, they were fed by the community upon their arrival, aside from the rations given them by the U.S. Army. From these centers the men are driven in trucks to their villages. Curb to curb service, isn't it? Imagine the Reds doing anything like that? Last week the group headed for Seoul was held over an extra day for very special recognition, a visit by President and Madam Rhee and General Van Fleet. My, what a yelling and cheering that brought forth! The old President spoke most feelingly to them, congratulating them upon their release and urging them now upon their return to work just as diligently and sacrificially at home as the men at the front, and to stir up the people to renewed effort. Interestingly enough Rhee who spoke first in Korean, and Van Fleet afterward in English said just about the same thing, although Van Fleet didn't know of course what remarks Rhee had previously made. Rhee is so old and voice so weak that only a few immediately in front of him could hear. But all couldn't help but see his earnestness and his tears as he pled for the nation's life. The huge general towered over the diminutive president. Madam Rhee is a peppy little person who waved enthusiastically at the cheering crowd.

In farewell talks with the Christians before they departed, the suggestion was made that we organize an "Alumni Association". At first I wondered what the reaction would be to the idea that they continue to be known as former POWs, but any such fear disappeared immediately. They want to keep in touch with each other and continue their fellowship, in the years ahead. They are talking of organizing congregations in churchless villages to be known as POW Churches! Who can tell what God will bring out of these years of imprisonment. May the fruitage be like that in 1919 when many of the present pastors and elders became Christians while in jail because of the Independence Movement. Pray that God will bless these returning Christians, will you not? POWs are generous. Yesterday in one compound the leaders came to me with five musical instruments,- accordion, cornet, clarinet, violin and guitar that they had bought, and asked me to see that they get to the wounded Korean veterans in the hospitals.

Doubtless the papers in the the U.S. have been carrying an account of the train hold-up by Red guerrillas west of Iri (formerly Riri under the Japanese), near Seoul. Ninety-four people were reported killed, Koreans, plus two G.I.s. There were fourteen G.I.s aboard who gave the attackers a good battle. One of the Korean passengers was Whang Kin Chun Moksa of Seoul Presbytery who is now Chief of Chaplains of the Korean army. When the attack started he first thought he had better remove his crosses, for as a Christian he would be a primary target for the Reds, but then on second thought decided that if he were to die it would be better to die as a martyr and therefore left on his Christian insignia. When the Reds came through the car they killed the people on both sides of Whang and contented themselves with taking his watch. Remarkable deliverance, wasn't it?

H. Voelkel - July 14

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I have written you of the action of the recent General Assembly concerning the liberal Seminary. Most missionaries are agreed now that the position taken is extreme and have counselled those whom it affects to wait until next year when the action can be reconsidered. But the supporters of the Seminary in a number of Presbyteries have been organizing and about two weeks ago an item appeared in one of the Christian newspapers announcing the formation of the "Protect the Law" General Assembly, the name that to them represents their aim,--the maintenance of the rules of the church. Many would challenge the propriety of their claim but anyway the new church was to be organized, so the announcement stated, in the First Church of Taiku on July 8th. A number of things happened before that date; first, the Church refused them permission to use the sanctuary, and then after successive disappointments the plan to meet was abandoned. Pak Yawng Heh-wicksa of Seoul had been announced as the convener. All are grateful of course for the failure of the divisive movement, for this is no time for fights and splits in the church, and we hope that patience will hold the brethren together.

While you in the States are having excessive heat, we here are experiencing just the opposite. Despite the fact that this is July, Koreans will be surprised to learn that we are sleeping under blankets every night. I'm afraid you'll think I'm spoofing when I tell you that my tent-mate and I are using three blankets each. But there is also the terrible fact that we are having no rain at all in what is normally the rainy season. Today I got these figures: for the whole province an average of only 26% of the rice has been planted. Here in Yung Chung county the average is 28% but in Andong where they have been having famine this past year the average is a dreadful 4%. All over South Korea the picture is far below normal. How tragic it is at a time when millions of refugees have swelled the numbers dependent on the crops, which at best are none too much. This all casts us more directly than ever upon the mercy of God. Pray for Korea.

Last Wednesday I drove out to a country church for prayer meeting. The barber here, a young fellow who studied in the Taiku Bible Institute, had been urging me to go with him to his home church, so I consented. But dear me, the road!-- very narrow bridges over which we just about made it. Once we did slip off the road into the rice paddy-field, but with help we lifted the car out. One of the officers here is the son of a Southern Presbyterian pastor and I had him along. A great meeting, fine attendance in a brand-new beautiful church. I loved the fellowship and it was an inspiration to me.

Yesterday I was able to get four big loads of wood for a new nearby church building. The Reds destroyed their former sanctuary two years ago. My station-wagon was loaded down each time. How happy I was to be able to help them!

Cordially yours,

Harold Voelkel.



Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
4 M.P. Service Co, Provisional  
A.P.O. 301, 7 P.M. San Francisco  
August 2, 1952

Dear Everybody,

Scorching weather is upon us. Since first coming to Korea I had heard of the intense heat and humidity of the Taiku area, but this is my first experience of it and all I have heard is true. Unfortunately the rains are delayed, or to put it more accurately, we have had little or no rain comparatively, and as a result the few fields that had water enough to permit the planting of rice seedlings are drying up. Around Seoul heavy rains have fallen. Would that they could share their plenty with us!

Politics is the big subject of discussion among the people (next to that of food next winter), and four candidates have presented themselves for the presidency. Syngman Rhee is very shy and hesitant about his desire for office, at least that is the impression the old gentleman wishes to give, but obviously great pressure is being exerted in his behalf behind the scenes. Former Koreans will be interested to know that Hugh Cynn, Methodist leader, now 70, is a candidate. Also Lee Shi-yung 83 (!) former Vice President, has come out. Strangest of all is the announced candidacy of Cho Fong Am, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly, graduate of a Moscow school and former Communist who is still suspected of Red sympathies and activity. His name appears first on the ballot!

Last night I was out in the country holding a meeting in a churchless village. We gathered in the yard of a home and after the meeting the acting-pastor, a seminary student, handed out handbills advertising Syngman Rhee for President and Ham Tai Yung old Seoul pastor, for Vice President. I was amazed at the team, for both are 77. In this election the Vice Presidential candidates are conducting their own free for all and nine have presented themselves. The fact that the handbills linked the names of these two oldsters doesn't mean that Rhee has picked Ham as his running mate; its everyman for himself.

While I'm on the subject of country meetings let me mention the fine attendances we've been having in nearby villages during the last month when I've been able to get out for one or two meetings a week. The heat is no deterrent and in each case it seemed the whole village turned out. I have been delighted to find in two of these struggling congregations that the acting-pastors are both northern young fellows, one from Sin Yi Joo and the other from Iyeng Yang, one a graduate and the other a student in the Taiku seminary. Both left the north at the time of the American occupancy almost two years ago now and came alone leaving their families of whom they have had no word. Its a great blessing to these weaker southern presbyteries to have the energy and zeal of these northerners who are throwing themselves whole-heartedly into the work. I've been most grateful to be able to help out in the erecting and enlarging of church buildings by supplying cast-off lumber from dismantled compounds here. Yesterday we took 2½ ton truck load piled high, out to a village group and it was a sight seeing the whole congregation from pastor down even to the women deacons (despite our protest) unload the boards. I got some pictures I hope will tell the happy story.

As for the Mission the big issue these days is a financial one (not new). The rate of exchange has us all tied up. Until recently we got as high as 24,000 won for a dollar, but suddenly the Korean government cracked down and insists that we be bound by the army rate of 6,000 to 1, a completely unrealistic and arbitrary rate. Let me illustrate. Recently I've been buying watermelons for the POWs and the other evening a fair-sized one was priced at 8,000 and it was worth no more than the \$.30 it would come to at the bank rate, but it was certainly not to be considered at the \$1.25 it would cost at the army rate. The Korean pastor who is working as a chaplain with me here in the POW Camp receives a salary of a million won a month, which at 6,000 won will be beyond our budget. What the remedy for the situation will be no one can say. I am particularly embarrassed by the fact that a week ago I borrowed two million won in town to use for charity purposes with the promise I would pay it back in a few days, but on my visit to Taiku to see the Mission treasurer got the bad news of the crack down. Edna Lawrence who with Bill Lyon is holding down the station activities these days, quoted Ned Adams as pessimistic that the old procedure could be restored, and until some new arrangement is discovered we'll be in a tight fix. Any suggestions?

H. Voelkel, Aug. 2, 1952

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A most regrettable and disappointing thing happened a week or so ago to increase the financial complexity of things for a number of church workers, at least. A captain in the Korean army chaplain's office (not a chaplain) was entrusted with the delivery of 17 million won from Taikoo to Seoul, to provide the Mission's share toward the salaries of Korean army chaplains and other Christian workers. Somewhere along the line the captain yielded to the temptation and resorted to what he thought would be a bright and quick way to reap large profits. He exchanged the won for American army scrip at 11,000 to 1, much more than the legal 6,000 to 1, and with the American scrip planned some purchases of merchandise which he was sure he could resell readily at a handsome profit. At that point the American M.P.s picked him up and relieved him of the scrip which it is illegal for him to have, and until the case is tried and a decision reached the workers will wait for their salaries. It is possible, of course, that we stand to lose the difference between 11,000 and 6,000 to 1, but here's hoping some way out can be discovered. With the spiral inflation 17 million won to anyone who has lived in the country when a won was \$.50 or \$.25 is a staggering amount of money.

Bill Lyon was all smiles over the approval of the American Army of Lorene's return to Korea. For months now the Mission has been trying to get wives "cleared" but without success. The American Embassy and the Korean government must still grant their O.K. but the basic difficulty has been the army's consent, and now with that obtained the rest will follow, it is confidently expected. And if Lorene makes it, Dorothy Kinsler will be approved next, it is hoped. Grace Woods is already in Pusan and Marion Conrow has the necessary papers to come and join the Ewha faculty. Teachers for Ewha are easier to get in than these other categories. Someone mentioned that Charlotte Linton had been given permission in America to return to Korea, which if true is an encouraging change in arrangements, for thus far we've understood all final decisions were made here in Korea by the army after the people reached Japan.

The POWs here are being released continually and we have only a few left. We're getting lonely! Letters are coming back from them telling of their reception, and one told of his entering seminary and of addressing several groups (one of G.I.s) telling of the blessing he received while a POW. Numbers of G.I.s here have become so attached to some POWs that they arrange for them to return and work as their houseboys. We therefore have a group of workers here who until recently were POWs! Last night they had to forcibly put a POW on the train to take him away; he said he didn't want to leave! Pretty good testimony, isn't it?

The first shipment of hard-core Red POWs from Kojedo are arriving tonight, and it will be a great challenge to confront them with the Gospel. I know them all and they know me because we've been together since they were captured. We'll be renewing old friendships.

Cordially yours,

Harold Voelkel.

September 1, 1952

Dear Everybody,

Just finished a journey through Southern Presbyterian territory which at present might also be characterized as a guerrilla area. For sometime I had been eager to visit the POW Camps at Non San and Kwang Ju, men whom I hadn't seen since they left Kojedo in April. After waiting for weeks, orders finally came through that enabled me to make the trip. I figured on flying from Taiku to Kwang Ju where there is frequent air service, but because of rain the flights had been cancelled for some days. Rains finally came after a long drought, saving the crops; in fact, we've had what might be called a rainy season these last two weeks. Anyway, because of the absence of air travel I took the EUSAK Flyer,--the Army Pusan-to-Seoul Express from Taiku to Te Jun (Taidon), and from there to Non San enjoyed real rural rail travel on a freight train to which a G.I. car had been attached. The Flyer provided an old Japanese first class Pullman car, no less, with individual plush seats, and also a roast ham dinner in the diner. Such luxury in war time indicates the excellent service the army can offer under difficulties. The engine was Diesel from America that clipped right along. But from Te Jun on it was another story. Time seemed to be of no consideration from the number of stops we made, and the delays at each stop. I recognized the valley down which we had travelled as a Mission in trucks, jeeps, and trailers two years ago when we evacuated from Te Chun Beach at word that the Reds were coming. The first stop the train made was at West Te Jun where the Mission group spent the first night, at least where we planned to spend it until roused up at midnight to continue the trek to Pusan.

About five in the evening we reached Non San in the rain. Mud everywhere. G.I.s were at the station and I was fortunate in getting a ride to the camp, almost seven miles away. The colonel gave me a cordial welcome and after chow I got right out to my old friends, the POWs. The first man I met was Im Han Sang Moksa, the pastor POW with whom I've had such a precious fellowship these years. He looks well, in fact seemed as spry and young as ever, and as the other Christians gathered around and realized it was Wednesday, they suggested we begin Prayer Meeting at once, and asked me to give the address. About three hundred were present. Afterward we talked a while but it couldn't be long for I had to be out of the compound before dark. The colonel expressed his regret that he didn't have a cot in the officers' billet for me, but he need not have felt badly about it, for I enjoyed much more the privacy of the empty chapel where I had everything to myself.

More rain that night and the next morning, and after breakfast I was off in the mud to the other compound. The rain precluded a meeting out-of-doors, so we just chatted and prayed together in a tent and discussed their need of notebooks, pencils, reading materials and other supplies. I shall order these from Japan. Since the train for Kwang Ju was scheduled to leave at ten, I took off shortly after nine; but I need not have hurried for it was eleven by the time we left.

This was an exciting trip, for between Non San and Kwang Ju are the mountains where the Reds are hiding who are keeping the area in turmoil. In late June they held up this train and killed 83 people, and a week ago attempted a hold-up but were driven off. By way of precaution we had an open freight car (gondola) in front of the locomotive with armed Korean troops in it, G.I.s in the baggage cars with machine guns in position, and Korean National Police were every fifty feet at the top of the passes. As the train climbed the highest pass the age and condition of the equipment was reflected in the effort required to make the grade. Soon we slowed down to an exhausted stop, and after backing down a bit got going again until quite far up the mountain when once more the incline was too steep for us and we had to once more back down to a level area where we could gather a little momentum for the climb which we were then able to make. It took six hours to cover the eighty miles between Non San and Kwang Ju. Some trip! Fortunately the colonel himself happened to be at the station and I rode with him to the camp, five miles out in the country. Mud and more mud. So much mud they had to stop entirely the construction of the new compounds which will house 500 men, instead of the present set-up with 5,000 capacity compounds.

H. Voelkel

-2-

As in Non San I was able to visit one compound in the evening and one the next morning. It was a special joy to meet these fellows, for they were from the compound on Kojedo where we had the daily daybreak prayer meeting regularly attended by thousands. The warmth and preciousness of the Christian fellowship delighted my heart. They were interested, naturally, in hearing the details of the release of the 25,000 POWs from here, confident that God in His good time and Providence would return them to their homes.

In the morning they insisted that I speak to the 300 Bible Institute students who were assembled and whom I addressed through an amplifier that Bruce Cumming secured for them. He is the chaplain to the POWs in both the Non San and Kwang Ju Camps. I spent the night in Kwang Ju in the Southern Presbyterian Compound, a real pleasure after the noise and rowdyism of the usual military outfit. Herb Coddington and Mrs. Bruce Cumming were my host and hostess, and I got some items from them of their Mission. The Wintons are returning, sailing from San Francisco in September. Three new young couples are arriving within a month to live in Japan and attend the Korean Language School, which is being organized in Tokyo. Among the newcomers are Mr. and Mrs. Brown (Maria Kopper) and their three children. The following is real news: in order to provide living quarters for these three new couples and for his wife who recently arrived, Pete Mitchell was sent from Kwang Ju to Tokyo to find FOUR houses to rent. Phew! Anybody who has attempted to find one house in Tokyo these days will know what a terrific job it is. Last winter Otto McCamp spent months getting a place, and had to buy it,-- and Pete is to find four!

In Passing through Taiku I heard that a number of new couples are being sent out to our Mission. I'll try to have their names for you in the next letter. They will be able to make good progress in the language in Japan, and by the time they get a start let us hope and pray that peace will have come to Korea. The Southern Presbyterians have decided that one way to get around the divided-family problem is to send single men to Korea, and soon the Rev. John Scott Brown, a single man, is arriving to join Boyer in Soon Chun. Let's see how long it takes the lightning of romance to strike the single man.

Here's more news. At last Florence Root has agreed to go on furlough. The doctors finally told her she would be risking her health to stay on any longer. What dedication she has shown sticking it out these years beyond the usual term period! Boyer is staying on an extra year, too. He was reported demolishing a Kusan Mission house, loading it on a freight car and transporting it to Te Jun to build a Bible Institute. I suppose he got his training in this type of work in the Practical Theology course in Seminary! It would have required from 11:00 in the morning until 3:30 the next morning for me to have returned to Taiku from Kwang Ju by train. Instead, I got a ride in a new "L 5", a two-seater plane, that took off from Kwang Ju at 11:00 and landed me at Taiku at 12:00, just in time for lunch. We flew over Chidi San which was pecking through the clouds. In Taiku a fellow who spied my car came running and introduced himself as a released POW Christian, and in ten minutes brought another "alumnus". A letter came today from a released man telling about his return home, and of leading his brother and his brother's family to Christ.

Cordially yours,

Harold Voelkel.

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
4 M.P. Service Co., Provisional  
A.P.O. 301, 5 P.M., San Francisco  
September 8, 1952

Dear Everybody,

Vacations are over and the husbands of the Mission have returned from Japan, and some of them are fortunate enough to be able to bring their wives with them. At Breakfast the other day in Taiku we had at the table Fran and Dorothy Kinsler, Bill and Lorene Lyon, Edna Lawrence, Ned Adams, John Underwood, Otto DeCamp, Bob Rice and myself. Bob Pierce and Elmer Kilbourne were also expected but didn't arrive. It was close quarters. You see how the ranks are swelling. And soon newcomers, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wilson, are scheduled to arrive in Japan and remain there to continue their language study. This past year they've been working on Korean at Yale. Marion Hartness has the responsibility of the Korean Language School in Tokyo. Gertrude just wrote that she has been asked to teach Korean hymns. Mary Hill has received permission to come and will arrive to join Harry for a few weeks before they sail for America on furlough on a ship from Pusan. Gerda Bergman and Minnie Davie are to be here soon, we hear. Gerda is planning to stay with a Korean Bible woman not far from the Taiku compound and take her meals in a Mission house. We have just the two houses there out of the seven for our use, - Miss Switzors and the Bruens. It is a crowded situation, to say the least, but of course a happy one, for it is now two years and more since the Red attack and all have been anxiously awaiting the day of return and reunion. Those of us with children on the field will have to wait, for the likelihood of families being permitted to come is remote with a war on. I might mention here that I am now beginning my third year in this Army job, one that was expected to last six months... "home by Christmas". It represents for us as a family the fifth year of separation out of the last seven.

I had been in Pusan and met among others Henry Appenzeller, just returned from America. Ruth came with him and is at present in Tokyo but will join Henry soon, I imagine. As evidence of the passing of time the Koreans will be interested to know that Harry Hill celebrated his "whan kap" last week, 61 years old. The members of the PyengYang Church in Pusan gave him a big time and the gifts included a suit of "han pok", Korean clothes. There was a feast with high praise and hearty congratulations. Piles of cakes and candy remaining from the party were sent to the house. Our Presbyterian house, formerly a Japanese residence, will be crowded during the next few weeks, for Ned and Sue Adams, Harry and Mary Hill, Otto DeCamp, and Tom Harnish will all be there, besides guests like myself who keep dropping in. Meredith Haynes of the Oriental Missionary Society, newly arrived, comes over for meals. While I was in Pusan a letter came to the Adamses which Sue shared with us giving details of the wedding of their son Dick to a Baltimore pastor's daughter.

For some time now the Pusan house has been so constantly crowded all day long with callers waiting to see members of the Mission, it was obvious some separate headquarters would have to be established. Months ago the Methodists bought a second property in Pusan. A week or so ago Ned purchased a two storey former Japanese store, directly across the street from the Kwang Pok Church, a fine location, and renovations are being made. It will provide office space for Ned and for the Treasurer, Tom Harnish, and both office space and living quarters for the secretary Marion Shaw. By way of "house warming" Ned had a pair of shoes stolen from the new place. I hadn't been in Pusan for months, and after an absence of that length I got the impression the city was more crowded and needier than ever. Actually I don't suppose it is any different from the rest of the country, but the concentration of population seemed to stress the awful poverty of the people. So many are dreadfully thin, actually emaciated, and the rising inflation and the approach of Fall and winter make the prospects increasingly serious.

Ruben Torrey is greatly encouraged by the response to and development of the Amputee Program. Sue gave us some details of a conference the team had with the Army I Corps authorities. They have decided to get behind things in a big way and the present budget calls for \$100,000.00 (that's dollars), and the probability is that it will amount to more. The officers were immensely pleased with the whole set-up and have issued a poster with pictures of two Korean boys with arms and legs missing, blown off by exploding bombs and mines. The poster reads:- "Arms and legs for Korean Kids - \$100,000.00 - GIVE THEM A HAND. I Corps Korean Children's Amputee Fund".

H. Voelkel-Sept. 8, '52

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Recently pastors from the North have been able to get through the lines, two from PyengYang and two from Chair Yung. What interesting, although sad, news they bring! One from PyengYang reports that our nig compound there is entirely destroyed, aside from the Seminary administration building, used by the roads as a courthouse, and the College science building. Young men may be seen on the streets now, he says, and the explanation is that the North Korean army does not have food or clothing sufficient to take in any more recruits. This is different from the news we get of the big Red build-up from the American news services. The churches in PyengYang have been bombed and only the walls remain. He mentioned particularly the historic Central Church and the large West Gate church, with only walls standing. In the country the Communists have taken over all the churches for use as offices. The west church in Chair Yung, near the compound, has been destroyed. Two of the pastors in the group that left the North together lost their lives enroute. The amazing thing is that some men have been able to get through with their families. What risks people will take to get away from Communism!

We are encouraged by the response among the newly arrived POWs here. The other day the Lt. Colonel in charge of Operations called me for what I thought might turn out to be a reprimand of one kind or another. His complaint was that a rule had been violated by the Christians in one compound. They had persisted in singing too vigorously at their daybreak prayers at 4 a.m. The regulations permit no "noise" (which includes hymns, by army interpretation) until 6:00. Well, I was certainly sorry that my brethren had violated a camp rule, but I praise God for their faith that gets them up at 4:00 daily to sing praises to their Saviour.

Last week we had another fine meeting out in the country. The Christians had put up posters around the town announcing our visit. We met in one of the most beautiful school grounds I've seen in Korea, large, with huge shade trees bordering it. The stand used by the athletic instructor became the platform. We hung the big Coleman light on a branch of a tree and the acoustics were remarkably good. The attendance was estimated to be 600. The helper is an enthusiastic fellow, a student in the Taiku Seminary, and the congregation is prospering under his fine leadership. One of the officers of the church is a fellow I met on my first country trip with Mr. Crothers in Andong territory in 1930. He was just a youth then, but now after 22 years is married and the father of seven daughters. "No sons", he added, which is a calamity in the Orient, but I reminded him that at least the number seven was the perfect number. He came to see me several days ago to invite me out, and when I learned that his aged mother was still living, decided to take her a gift. She had been kind to me over the years as I itinerated their little country church. I asked the Korean pastor who works with me in the Camp here to open some relief parcels Claire Bruen had sent and pick out some things for the granny. He got together what he thought would be an acceptable package and brought it to me for my approval. I found he had chosen a baby blanket, a wash cloth, a pair of ultra-fashionable flapper's shoes, a pair of bifocals, and a set of false teeth.

Cordially,

Harold.

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
4 M.P. Service Co., Provisional  
A.P.O. 234, 7 P.M. San Francisco  
October 13, 1952

Dear Everybody,

As we did last year, we celebrated World Wide Communion Sunday in our POW churches again this year, and I am sure it will linger in my memory as one of the happiest days of my life. It made me more grateful than ever for the privilege of this unusual ministry. The weather has been unseasonably chilly this Fall, really cold, but Communion Sunday broke clear and bright and moderate, actually balmy, a token to us of God's delight in it. The size of our congregations make it necessary to meet outdoors, and a cold day with a strong wind blowing up a thick dust would have detracted greatly from the beauty of the fellowship.

The first service was held in #2 Enclosure where we have the smaller congregation of 800. We planned to meet at 9:00 but felt we ought to get the preparations under way by 8:30. When we arrived the leaders had already beaten us to it, arranged a table, chairs, and two brightly-colored wreathes of paper flowers on easels inscribed with THE HOLY LAST SUPPER in English, and CONGRATULATIONS COMMUNION SERVICE in Korean. How thoughtful and devoted they are! It took us some time to work out details for seating the catechumens and candidates for baptism in order that they might respond easily to their names when called. The choir had prepared a special anthem, and a trempeteer filled the air with the music of the Cross. I preached on the passage of the institution of the Supper, I Cor. 11:23-28, stressing the fact that it was the Lord's Table, contrasting the Roman Catholic view of transubstantiation and the Reformed view of the spiritual presence in the elements, reminding them of the twofold "showing" of the Lord's death (His grace) and His return (His glory), and appealing to them to search their hearts with a view to repentance and confession before they partook of the bread and cup.

After a Communion service in a POW Camp I am always reminded of an account I once read of an early medieval missionary to the Saxons, who after a whole day of baptisms was dripping with sweat and exhausted physically. He used the "tincture method" of serving the communion, dipping the bread in the "wine", and after stooping down to the hundreds seated on the ground, up and down row after row, one is conscious of real fatigue. But it is a weariness that brings joy and gratitude with it. We adjourned at 11:30, a service of nearly three hours. At the afternoon meeting which began at 3:30, 1,200 were present, and it continued likewise for three hours. The order of worship was the same and I repeated the sermon of the morning. God was with us. We could feel His presence, and as the darkness of the early Fall night fell, my heart glowed with thanksgiving for the day. A total of 150 were baptized and 260 established as catechumens, and the particular significance of these figures is that these men received the Lord Jesus as Saviour in the POW camps. Similar numbers were received into the church at the other camps, also. This is the fruitage of the evangelistic meetings in the first days of this ministry two full years ago.

I planned to rest on Monday but the colonel asked me to interpret citations for four Koreans, two officers and two enlisted men, who had captured five escapees without wounding them. What a contrast to Sunday's activities! On Tuesday I left for Pusan and Masan camps. The POWs in Masan are all to be released by the end of this month and I wanted to have a last word with them before they got away. We had a farewell meeting in each of the two churches and I accidentally got the following details from one of the leaders which I had not known before. Someone referring to him remarked about his not being married, a strange situation since he was 32 years old. When the "whys" and "wherefores" had been discussed this fact emerged: he had been a Buddhist priest for ten years and they are all celibates. After his capture and internment in a POW camp he heard the Gospel and decided to believe. He was successively established a catechumen, baptized, enrolled as a student in the Bible Institute, graduated from both the Old Testament and New Testament Correspondence Courses, and made the leader of his compound church. Now upon his release he is planning to enter Seminary and prepare for the Gospel ministry. Praise God! I repeat it was just by accident after all this time that I happened to learn of the man's having been a Buddhist priest. I'm wondering what other interesting experiences we'll be hearing about from the men.

H. Voelkel - Oct.13, '52

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That congregation regretted that they hadn't know I was coming, for they are preparing a photographic history of the compound church. The Korean pastor working there, who has continued with them since they were on Kojedo, has a Brownie camera and is getting a beautiful album of pictures. I noted some figures in the record: When the compound was first built there were 5 baptized members, 10 catechumens, and 10 inquirers, - a total of 25 in the congregation. Now the church numbers 710. God has been at work, has He not?

I stayed in the Mission House in Pusan and delighted among other things in finding that the dollar exchange at a reasonable rate is once more approved: 22,000 wan for a dollar. I got ten million wan and that amount in thousand wan bills amounts to a coolie's load. Dr. Bob Jones, founder and president of the college that bears his name, flew in for a visit and Sue Adams invited him to lunch. I had heard the well-known evangelist preach a few times but had never met him. He is now 69, has known all the great evangelists of the last fifty years, (he was licensed to preach at 15), and in his charmin' Southern drawl entertained us with details of personal experiences from his long and large ministry. In connection with the college, he remarked that he keeps "pourin' on" evangelism without any fear of the students becoming fanatical for at the same time they are required to take Greek and that keeps them balanced! I might add that even though Dr. Bob came to Korea to study missions and had a total of some 75 years of missionary service around the table to draw from, he did all the talkin' which was agreeable enough to us for he certainly is a fascinating conversationalist.

A guest at our Pusan House was a representative of The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), formerly the Scandinavian Alliance Mission, now the largest mission by far in Japan, all new people with a few exceptions since the war. Some members of the mission feel the crisis in Korea is a call for them to begin work here and they sent Tom Watson, their radio man, and send two others to "survey" the field. TEAM does things in a big way and the likelihood is that if they get started they'll have a large group here. Ned Adams, Otto McCamp, and I talked until late one night with Watson trying to give him the picture in Korea. The only qualms I have is that they may ultimately become divisive and controversial in view of the action numbers of their mission supported this summer at Haruzawa in refusing a conference of the older, denominational missions the use of the community church building there. However, the door to Korea is the Lord's to open or to close and the church His to preserve and prosper, and we leave the decision for reinforcements with Him.

Rueben Torrey arrived in Pusan from Seoul with inspiring accounts of the amputee work. He had come across a young fellow who had ingeniously made a leg out of old tin roofing and a big rubber washer from a captured Russian tank! In both Pusan and Taiku this time I saw a surprisingly large number of insane women, a terribly depressing sight, which I suggest to you all as an item for prayer. There is no institution for them in all Korea, government or otherwise. They become unaware of the disarrangement of their clothing, mostly rags, and crude crowds gather to gawk and mock at their indecency.

Yesterday at church we awarded prizes to five for memorizing the whole book of Revelation. Each man recited a chapter. When I came to the last one I asked him which chapter he'd recite, and he replied, "Anyone". I turned to the congregation and asked them to request a chapter for him to recite. Someone called out, "Chapter 2" so he started right out, "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write..." and went on right through the entire chapter beautifully. Amazing, isn't it!

Most cordially,

Harold Voelkel.



October 31, 1952

Dear Everybody,

It has certainly been a pleasure in these letters to give you the details of the joys and accomplishments of the POW ministry, and now that a great disappointment and sorrow has come to me in the work I feel in all honesty that I must tell you about it in order that you may have a full understanding of the variety of issues that arise here, and be able also to pray for us. I imagine the experience will carry its own spiritual lesson, for none of us is immune to Satan's wiles, and it is only God's goodness that keeps us from stumbling.

Here are the facts. As I've mentioned before the POWs receive a cigarette ration of ten a day. Since the Christians do not smoke I have urged them to refuse the tobacco and many of them have, but others have accepted it and sold it to unbelievers. Now the rules of the Camp forbid prisoners having money. For any who had cash on them when captured it is held for them at headquarters and purchases approved are made for them. However, since few of the POWs had a penny on them when taken, any cash they now possess represents illegal dealing. One of the biggest headaches the authorities have is to keep POWs from bartering clothing items, -shoes, blankets, etc., when outside on work detail. I think I mentioned months ago, perhaps more than a year ago now, that in a group of six or eight men it was once discovered that they had on them a total of fifty pairs of trousers. While at work when the guard wasn't looking they'd slip off a pair of pants for a passerby for a price and no one was the wiser. Then the prisoner bought liquor or dope to bring into the compound and the damage was done. When the International Red Cross inspector makes his rounds men who have sold pants, shirts, socks, blankets, complain that they are not being given necessary items and it is difficult for the administration to prove that they have, for anything that has disappeared has been due to inefficient guarding. If the clothes have been distributed, so the argument goes, where are they now? So our guards are warned to be on the lookout for bartering.

Some days ago Christians in three of the compounds with money received from cigarette sales urged the Korean pastor who has been working with me to buy them English-Korean dictionaries, and being unable to resist the pressure he yielded, bought five of them and as he entered the compound was discovered. I was called to the colonel's office for an explanation, which of course I was unable to give, and as a result my Korean chaplain friend and co-worker has been discharged from the chaplaincy after more than a year and a half of faithful, fruitful service. I am sick about it. He is a grand man, a refugee from Seoul who walked to Taiku with his family of six in the bitter cold of the winter of 1950 on a trek that took 19 days. The salary he received here has enabled him to get established again, but now with this discharge he will be without income and the sad circumstances will make it embarrassing in seeking a pastorate. What a lesson on the folly of sin this has been! How utterly foolish and short-sighted it is, and what loss and suffering it brings! Pray that the loss and shame involved will be blest to the man, and that his faith will be stronger and his witness more powerful because of it.

To add to my embarrassment, in a shake-down examination of a group of Christians being transferred to another camp yesterday, it was discovered that one hundred thousand wun (₩5.00) had been hidden inside the organ!

The week has brought other, pleasant experiences, too. The Kinslers invited me to station dinner and meeting on Thursday night, and as I entered the house I saw the table decorated with smiling, illuminated jack-o-lanterns, persimmon branches and fruit and other Halloween symbols. Helen Henderson and Minnie Davie had just arrived from Japan, and together with Bill and Lorene Lyon, Taiku station is beginning to take on sizeable proportions. Minnie is looking forward to a return to Chung Ju, but for the present is becoming reacclimated to Korea in Taiku. There was much to catch up on in conversation for much has happened in the two years since these two, with the rest of us, evacuated to Japan.

H. Voelkel - Oct. 31, 1952

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Someone mentioned that the new Southern Presbyterian single man had arrived, and Fran suggested that since married couples can't get over to Korea and single people can, it would be a good Board policy to send out single people to the field and let them get married after they arrive. Pretty good plan, don't you think! As soon as the various Taiku Mission Institutions learned of the arrival of the two missionaries they began making appeals for their services. The newcomers are not going to be troubled with enforced idleness, that's sure!

No little excitement came to the Camp here a few days ago through the visit of General John Hodge, (four stars) who commanded the American invasion of Korea in 1945 that freed the land from the Japanese. He is well remembered by the Koreans, of course. He had three stars then; since his return to the States in '45 made another star and is now Commander of Field Forces. We don't get four-star generals in POW Camps very often so the place was gone over as with a fine-tooth comb. All the G.I's as well as officers (excepting the chaplains) turned out in bright yellow scarfs, the Military Police Color, and the whole place reflected a spick and span holiday mood. Hodge arrived in a special train, and after greeting our commanding officer proceeded to the compound. The chaplains were told to wait in front of the educational tent, and sure 'nuff the officer who was showing him around stopped and presented us to him. He was surprised to hear that we had congregations among the POWs, and I told him we would have the Christians sing for him if he wished. But he replied that he didn't think he had time. After he visited a compound and made a speech which I interpreted for him, I suggested to the Christians that they sing. They started up on ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS and did it well, but with Hodge busy inspecting the kitchen and living quarters of the prisoners, I doubt if he appreciated or even recognized the hymn. He rarely if ever attended Church services while in Korea before. Anyway, it did my soul good to hear the testimony of these brothers in song.

I am feeling particularly grateful these days for a pre-fabricated chapel-office-living quarters that has been erected for us chaplains, the Catholic priest and myself. Ours was just about the last building erected and because the limited number of stoves permit only one to a building and it would naturally have to be installed in the chapel part of this one, we were unable to move into the living quarters in the back without heat. As it was we had no stove for the tent where we were living, hoping daily for a second stove for the chapel to turn up. What a bone-chilling experience that tent was! As it was we kept well and finally succeeded in scrounging a stove, and here we are now, warm as toast, in most comfortable and attractive quarters. This is my third winter in the army in Korea, and each year I've succeeded in being able to keep comfortable and warm.

Another transfer of prisoners from here is being arranged and we therefore caught up on Bible Correspondence Course examinations and had 235 graduates in the New Testament and 205 in the Old Testament, a total of 442. Prizes were given to the graduates, beginning with inexpensive fountain pens and Korean-English dictionaries down to Korean notebooks and pencils, the latter a most modest prize, I'll have to admit. But the men are most grateful. As I left one compound after the distribution of the prizes, the graduates all lined up, sang a hymn, and presented me with a bouquet of paper flowers. They don't give forth much fragrance, but they certainly brighten up the hut.

Cordially,

Harold.

Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
U.S. Service Co., Provisional  
A.P.O. 234, S.F.M., San Francisco, Calif.  
November 15, 1952

Dear Everybody,

I've just come from a gathering that was not only meaningful and most enjoyable in itself, but immensely significant in all it revealed of dedicated service on the part of the missionaries in the years that have passed. A few weeks ago a pastor turned up whom I hadn't seen for years, whose experience is itself noteworthy, to tell me he had a pastorate nearby and to invite me to preach at a Sunday service sometime. Back in Andong days I had helped him through Seminary and after the war when I returned in 1946 I learned that he had left the ministry, was teaching school and not even attending church. I looked him up and pleaded with him to return to Christ, but without avail, and he continued in unbelief for years. Now he is back in the ministry, and how interesting it was that our paths should cross here.

Because of my busy schedule here on Sunday with the POWs, I couldn't respond to his invitation to a Sunday service, so he asked me to attend the ordination of an elder today, which I happily agreed to do. In discussing his return to the ministry he spoke of a number of sorrows he had had, among others the death of a son and grandson. While trying to comfort him, he replied that he was convinced that the sorrow and loss was the result of his sin, and now he wished to labor on faithfully for God.

The local Yung Chun pastor and two elders joined me in the fifty li (18 miles) drive to the ordination service, and as we approached the church the large crowd that had gathered called forth what I thought was a brutally frank remark, to the effect that the famine year in this area had brought many from nearby churches for the meal. A large dam built by the Japanese outside the town supplied water for the crops last summer when the grain everywhere else was burning up from lack of rain. Moreover, we heard later that the elder had been out hunting and had bagged four deer, - meat enough to provide generously for the many guests. In the mountains of that area are both deer and guerrillas, - either you get the deer or the guerrillas get you! The order of the service, as usual, was long, almost interminable. I was asked to lead in prayer after the first hymn and then followed the sermon, the questions, the laying on of hands, the messages to elder and congregation, congratulations and response, the presentation of gifts, etc. What impressed me was the life and the activity that had made the service possible. Four of the pastors were graduates of the old PyengYang Seminary; one was an alumnus of the Taiku Boys Academy; another got his preparation for Seminary at the Andong Bible Institute.

When the questions were read from the CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, I tried to visualize the long hours of committee meetings of the Literature Society getting a volume like that translated, approved, published and distributed. Year and years of work, and now the effort was bearing fruit. The orderliness, dignity and beauty of the service stirred me. How thoroughly and well the founders had done their work, and how well pleased they would be to see the results of their labors! And may I add this here, that the new members of the Mission impress me as worthy successors one in purpose and objective with the founding fathers.

Then the feast! The tables were brought right into the church building, for only thus could all the guests be served. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 11:00, was slow in getting started, and now at adjournment it was nearly 2:00. I was starved and found the venison soup and steaming rice delicious. The table was laden with other delicacies but I concentrated on the soup and the rice. I had my camera along and got several shots of the elder and church groups that will make ideal souvenirs of the happy occasion.

I had a visit recently from the Korean Chief of Chaplains, Kim Hyung Do, and he gave me some statistics that will interest you. These are for the three armed services: army, navy, and air force. In the army 139, navy 21, air force 5 chaplains; Presbyterian 108, Methodist 22, Catholic 26, Holiness 8, Salvation Army 1. A total of 165.

The latest word is that Billy Graham is coming for ten days of meetings here, five each in Pusan and Seoul. Ned and Sue Adams have separated. Sue's work is primarily for the amputees with headquarters in Seoul, and Ned holds forth in Pusan although he might be said to commute to Seoul once a week, or at least once every other week. Both Ned and Sue are heading for Japan next week for a conference with the new missionaries. Marion Hartness is heading up the Language School in Tokyo. I hear my wife is teaching hymns and prayer forms.

Many of you will recall Choi Pil Kun Moksa of PyengYang, former professor in the Seminary. One of his sons, a Seminary student, disappeared during the war confusion and was later discovered to be a POW here. I contacted his father and arranged for him to conduct meetings in the Camp and thereby meet his son. You can imagine the drama of it, but the lack of emotional display surprised me, as it always does. No hug or handshake, just a subdued "hello" in front of everybody. But then later the animated conversation, and in this case the exciting details of the whereabouts of relatives and friends who had all fled as the Chinese approached in the winter of 1950.

Now get ready for a whopper. I've been driving a tank! Yes, nothing less than a 45 ton affair. Guiding it over these rice paddies without fear or even concern for the banks and ditches that mean nothing to the roaring monster. The ease of operation is amazing to anyone not familiar with the internal set-up of a tank. One simple hand lever and a foot peddle control the movements of the giant.

How generous G.I.s are! One who had returned from R & R (Rest and Recreation) a five day trip to Japan, came to tell me of the good time he had had and how he had spent his money. Before entering the army he was a factory worker. Well, he spent \$400.00; \$150.00 of it went for a pearl necklace for his wife. He stayed at hotels at \$4.50 a night and took \$10.00 taxi trips around town, when rooms are made available by the army and busses for army personel travel everywhere. Another purchase was a large plaster east of Venus de Milo, that he decided would "look nice" on top of his television set at home.

Peter Van Lierop reports ten new Christian Middle Schools in the Andong territory. In most cases they were institutions the government couldn't make a success of, and now the local churches have taken them over determined to keep them going. Bible is taught four hours a week and chapel held daily. By what financial genius these institutions are being conducted at a time like this, especially in Andong Presbytery, which has been particularly hard hit economically, is baffling. The standards can't be too high, but that any instruction at all is being given in these troublous times, is all to the good. The Bible Clubs continue to progress all over the country, and here are a few figures: 7,000 children studying in Seoul area 1,000 in Chung Ju; 5,000 in Andong; 2,000 in Taiku; 1,500 in Pusan; 3,000 in Che Ju (Quelpart); 2,000 on Kuje Do; 1,500 in Incheon. I attended a Bible Club Rally in Taiku, a huge group of youngsters with a happy Christian testimony.

The probability is that you'll all be seeing some movies of Christian work in Korea soon, for we've had a visit from a photographer under the auspices of the Protestant Film Commission. He was here at the POW Camp for some shots.

Sue Adams tells this on herself. She succeeded recently in buying some coal in Seoul and then confronted with the problem of transportation for her purchase, went to the army and was ultimately referred to a colored sargent. She started right from the beginning of the story giving him full details of the deal and of the need now for transporting it home, and when she finished the sargent asked, "Honey, all those words and all you needs is a truck?"

Cordially,

Harold.

Dear Everybody,

I've just been to Pusan and to Masan, and what a change there is in the missionary set-up! I got to the Australian House at lunchtime, and the group around the table illustrates as well as anything the difference. Whereas, until recently it was all men, now they are definitely in the minority, and the women have taken over. Ruth Appenzeller (Mrs. Henry), a YMCA wife, and Miss Rose (Canadian), outnumbered the males, Henry Appenzeller, Scott and Frazor (Canadians), and Robertson (British Bible Society). The score, you see, was 3 to 4. Incidentally, a sizeable table, too, wasn't it? And imagine the restricted quarters accorded each occupant. Also, when numbers of Korean callers come to discuss church business with the various missionaries, the lack of room is further emphasized.

I haven't mentioned one other member of the Australian family, George Anderson. Upon inquiry about him, Scott replied that he had become a Baptist; rather startling news for a staid Australian Presbyterian. There were smiles, and then the facts emerged. Anderson has been itinerating quite a bit in the country and around the islands in the Pusan area. On a boat trip to Kojodo, when Anderson stepped from the boat to the pier he slipped and fell into the sea, and "great was the fall thereof", for he broke an arm and dislocated a finger on the other hand, -- no laughing matter.

Ruth Appenzeller mentioned that they expected to get into a house by themselves soon, a former Japanese place the Methodist Mission purchased for them. This is the third building the M.E.s have bought in Pusan: two residences and an office building. The McKenzie sisters, a doctor and a nurse, have transformed the former Ecl Syn Kindergarten building into an obstetrics and gynecology hospital with a capacity for 14 women and ten babies. The Methodist Seminary has a student body of 100. The Korean Seminary group (Chisholms, Malsbarys, Bruce Hunt) have formally organized a new church, the governing body is known as Te Nae Whei Larger (or greater) Presbytery. I haven't the statistics yet, the number of congregations, pastors, and members. Marjorie Hanson has returned to Pusan.

The Methodists have overtaken us Presbyterians, think of that! Quite a group of women have arrived (some new and some old, I was going to say, but I'll revise it and say that some have been here before and some are now on the field) -- Clara Howard, Sadie Maud Moore, Marion Conrow, Frances Fulton, Katherine Crane, and one man's name I remember, Lee Cooper, a short-terminer to teach in Pajah Middle School. Most, if not all, of these women are teaching in Ewah in Pusan, and these plus those I've mentioned previously who are living in Seoul bring the total up to 19, whereas, we Presbyterians have 15. With our new missionaries studying the language in Japan we'd top that. I am quoting figures only to show how the missions are expanding. The Southern Presbyterians are celebrating their 60th anniversary of the founding of their work in Korea. Petrie Mitchell, their treasurer, was in Pusan reporting the hum of activity in their area. Florence Root, who delayed her furlough for years and took off for America only a few months ago, is reported to be returning soon.

Have I spoken of the regulations of the South Presbyterians for men out here without their families? For husbands who come to Korea and leave their families in America, a furlough of six months is granted after a year and a half on the field. For a family with the husband in Korea and wife and children in Japan, a short furlough to America is given after two years. A recent report of our Northern Presbyterian Executive Committee lists approval of as many as four trips a year to families in Japan for husbands in Korea, if deemed necessary; not that each husband is required or expected to hop over that often, but he may if family conditions warrant it, -- a very generous arrangement, to be sure. I had better add that air transportation has taken a financial drop, as it ought to have done long ago. Now a round trip from Korea to Japan is \$35.00, via CAT (China Air Transport), which is offering good service. They operate a number of routes around Korea, too, and old-timers will appreciate that times have changed when I tell about a refugee Pusan pastor recently who was required to attend Seoul Presbytery and had his air travel paid by the congregation (U.S. \$20.00 - round trip). Train travel now is so crowded it is not always possible to buy a ticket, and moreover, the trains have been delayed as long as six and eight hours on a scheduled 12-hour trip.

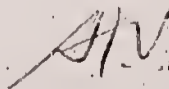
Something of the enormous tonnage the railroads are moving can be understood from the fact that on a train passing through here the other day, were four cars of turkeys destined for G. I. stomachs on Thanksgiving Day. The turkeys keep coming, too. I asked about a jeep ride to Andong and was told no one was driving but that "turkey cars" would be along if I wanted to travel on one.

New Missions continue to come to Korea, the latest I've heard of is the Mennonites. I met one of the men the other morning in Pusan and travelled with him to Taiku. They are primarily interested in the humanitarian work of the denomination, the distribution of food and clothing. The Mennonites are a spiritual people, of course, but they also go in for an out and out charity work aside from direct evangelism. This Mennonite asked me about housing, a prerequisite for any missionary group, and I was sorry not to be able to give him an encouraging reply. With him were two Friends (Quakers), one American and one English, in Korea likewise for relief work. I heard from them that the Heifer Project people had sent some goats and pigs to Korea recently (hardly heifers). What a potential America has when it comes to charity, or anything else! The amount and variety of commodities pouring into Korea from America is incredible.

Have I mentioned the fun I had recently helping out a pastor? On a visit to his church in the country some months ago, I felt myself having to strain to figure out what he was saying, his words were so indistinct. Then I noticed that he had no teeth, either uppers or lowers. Upon inquiry locally I learned that a graduate dentist here in Yung Chun offers false teeth, denture service, and I had the pastor fitted out with a complete set for \$45.00, just the amount of a check that had been sent me for relief. Are not false teeth "relief"? Doubly so in this case, I'd say, first a relief to the pastor and second a relief to the people who must listen to him.

My visit to Pusan was in the interest of POW work, of course, and as always it's a joy to see my parishoners of nearly two years and a half now. I had the chaplain in the Pusan Camp, a recently arrived pastor from PyengYang, with me on the trip to Mansan to meet the Korean chaplain there, who has been in this ministry almost from the beginning. I wanted the newcomer to get some helpful suggestions from the veteran. On the three hour trip, the PyengYang man who had been there until about two months ago, gave me some very significant facts. The city, he says, is a shambles, and that isn't any surprise in view of the daily reports we get of the bombing by our Air Force. He told of the fewness of the people, almost no men. All the work, -farming, merchandizing, laboring, everything practically, is done by women. Times are hard. Commodities are scarce and what manufactured items there are, are imported from Manchuria where he says some large factories have been built. No church services are possible, of course; in fact, Christians must keep out of sight and must hide their identity. Some church leaders when discovered were taken off and not heard from again. He disguised himself as a laborer and in escaping from Red territory to a South Korea island was shot at several times by Red guards but managed to get by safely. Most of the Northern troops are Chinese, and by writing the Chinese characters information can be exchanged with the Koreans. The Chinese explained that they were forced to come to Korea and were not fighting by choice. There are deserters among them who get as far as the Yaku river but are there apprehended and returned to the front. The troops are rotated to China about every year and a half, he estimated. He said he saw some American prisoners who were housed in schools and factories and allowed to move around the city during the day, but when the American bombing was stepped up they were moved out of town. The Soviet satellite countries maintain embassies in PyengYang, Russia, Red China, Mongolia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, etc. not however, in the usual diplomatic luxury, but in caves dug in the side of the hills. The ambassadors have their wives with them, sharing the rigors of the caves.

Cordially yours,



Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
6 M.P. Service Co., Provisional  
A.P.O. 59, 7/8 P.M. San Francisco, Calif.  
February 15, 1953

Dear Everybody,

Another precious Lord's Day. I have been officially transferred from Yung Chun to the Camp here at Non San. The POW Camp is about six miles from town and is in North Chulla province, although the town is just over the boarder in Chung Chun province. Thus far Bruce Cumming has divided his time between the Kwang Ju POW Camp and this one. The ride required about six hours on the train. The Camp at Non San is now the largest Camp, with fine congregations, Christian fellows I had known of course on Kojedo. There are three enclosures and on Friday when I made my first visit to the enclosure where the pastor POW is, the Christians gathered for a service right then and there. In arranging today's schedule it was decided that I should hold the services in the two remaining enclosures. It has been bitter cold today, and the first service was held in a tin building with a capacity of 600 into which 750 were crowded, and a number standing around the sides of the building. Paper wreaths, a banner of "welcome", and special numbers by the two choirs assured me of the warmth of my reception.

This particular enclosure has experienced a real stirring recently, and at least 300 new believers have been attending. What a joy it was to be back with my old friends whom I hadn't seen for several months! They presented me with a finger ring, of which I'm gathering quite a collection. We met for an hour and a half and then I hurried over to the chapel for a service for the G.I.s. I'm sorry I can't say much in praise of it, for the attendance was miserable, and I hope and pray I shall be used to awaken a concern spiritually in the hearts of many officers and men here.

This afternoon I was back in the remaining enclosure with a packed house; more wreaths, speeches, and two rings this time, one for both Gertrude and me. The POWs remember that Gertrude has been my purchasing agent securing the trumpets, organs, clarinets, accordians, note-books, pencils, etc. for them, and therefore included her in their gift jewelry. Another happy and holy time. After adjournment a jeep came for me to take me to nearby churches, congregations I wanted to get acquainted with at once. Five large relief parcels had come, good warm clothing, and I figured I would meet more Christians on Sunday afternoon than at any other time. I was glad to make the visits for both groups are quite new and can stand all the help and encouragement we have to give. As I say, it was bitter cold and after two hours in an open jeep I was glad to get back to warmth. Fried chicken and ice-cream were on the menu tonight, thanks to all you generous taxpayers. I ate heartily!

On the way over from Yung Chun I stopped off at Tae Jun for a visit, my first since that eventful night, June 26, 1950, when as a fleeing Mission, the 79 of us who had been at Tae Chun Beach, sought shelter in the officers' mess of an American army installation. Well, that mess is still there. I ate there this time and slept across the hall from the large room where the men and boys expected to sleep that June night but from where we were roused out and started with the others on the trip to Pusan. Much has happened since that eventful night, has it not! At noon I was at the Methodist house in Tae Jun for lunch, the guest of Messrs Brannon, his son-in-law Carl Judy, and a new agricultural man, Dean Shocngirt. Mr. Brannon said he considered the response to the Gospel greater now than at any time during his more than 40 years in the country. I called on the single-ladies, Miss Laird and Miss Ratlipp, whose house adjoins that of the men.

Yesterday was Korean New Year and the country-side is colorful with new clothing. Everyone seems to have been able to get a new outfit somewhere. Gaiety persists in the presence of great poverty and much misery.

Cordially yours,

Harold Voelkel.

The dinner was a big celebration with the return of Ned Adams from the States, and Otto DeCamp from Japan. A new Youth for Christ worker, Douglas Cozart, who will live with the Kinslors in Taiku, came on the plane with them. It was a full house, a crowded table, and a happy fellowship. Next morning bright and early I got up to accompany Stan Wilson to a breakfast prayer meeting held weekly at the different houses by the younger missionaries. They met at 7:00 for breakfast, spend time in a Bible study, and then go to prayer. I'll see if I can remember those present: Methodists Burkholder, Spitzkeit, and Don Payne; Oriental Missionary Society Elmer Kilbourne and Med Haynes; a Seventh Day Adventist (?); YMCA Bill....; TEAM Tom Watson; Youth for Christ Cozart; Presbyterians Wilson and Voelkel. It delighted me to learn of this fellowship. They are also concerned with the work done among G.I.s and recently in conjunction with army chaplains, have arranged for Saturday night popular Gospel meeting to be held in the Service Club, where they are confident a good crowd can be gathered and evangelized.

That afternoon was the official welcome of the Texas "Friend-Ship", a vessel bringing 300 tons of grain, clothing, and supplies from the churches of Texas to needy people in Korea, under the auspices of Church World Service. Chairs were arranged alongside the vessel on the pier, and Korean government and diplomatic dignitaries, missionaries and Korean church leaders gathered for the celebration. Henry Appenzeller of C W S presided in front of the mike, the Salvation Army Colonel Wang led in prayer, a representative from the Embassy spoke, and good old Ham Te Yung Moska, vice-president of Korea, officially received the gifts. That a man, hale and hearty, as spry as ever, really pink-checked, and quite equal to the occasion. My mind went back to Annual Meetings of our Mission 12 or 15 years ago, when a solution was sought for this aged pastor, unable to work any more and without resources. Now he is V.P. (very important), he arrived in his own car, was faultlessly dressed, and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. A group of children put on a harvest dance, with masks and clever attire. It was really tops, the first thing of its kind I'd ever seen.

On my way back to Non San, when we changed trains at Te Jun, a group of Americans got on board with a number of English speaking Korean young fellows, really superior. The Americans were an educational team, two women and five men, enroute to Chun Ju. They had been holding classes in educational research for High School principals in Pusan, who had been invited from all over the country. Now, the team was visiting different areas to see what changed, if any, their "work-shops" had made in school set-ups. Now get this: the team had been sent out by our American State Dept. which had recruited them from the UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMISSION. Dear me, I had a sinking feeling. I learned that the women had been invited to stay at the missionary home in Chun Ju, and I felt comforted, for I knew if the Lintons spent some time with these Unitarians, they would at least learn of the definitely Trinitarian convictions of the Korean Church.

Cordially yours,

Harold Voelkel.

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Postscript by Gertnude Voelkel -

We want to let you know how very much we appreciate the letters from many of you kind friends. It lets us know these news letters are reaching you. They are now being mimeographed and mailed out by the Word of Life Press, here in Tokyo, Japan. But please do not let the Japanese address on the corner of the envelope confuse you for my correct address still is - Washington Hts. Dep. Mail, A. P. O. 500, 7/8 P.M. San Francisco, Calif. and 6¢ for airmail.



Chaplain Harold Voelkel  
Unit 6, P W Service  
A.P.O. 59, 7/8 P.M. San Francisco, Calif  
March 3, 1953

Dear Everybody,

This is being written in Pusan, my first visit in a month, and naturally in that time much can happen. The trip from Non San, 'way out in the sticks where I am now located to Te Jun (formerly Taiden), on the mainland of the railroad, is in itself an adventure for the rail service is pretty primitive.

Yesterday morning when I boarded the G.I. car, there sat Margaret Pritchard of the Southern Presbyterian Mission, who was en route to Japan for a little vacation. For over a year now, in fact a year and a half, she has kept close to her work as head of the nursing school in Chun Ju, and since she has just capped 15 nurses she has a month before the new class gets started, and so decided to get in a little rest. She'll fly, of course. She now has 40 nurses in the hospital, which indicates something of the extent of the work they are doing. There are orphanages of 150 and 350 children in Chun Ju under Mission auspices, and the hospital has the responsibility of caring for the sick of these two institutions, besides their regular patients. Margaret mentioned the large number of abandoned babies that must be cared for. Children are left at the door of the hospital, on benches in the corridors, and the other day some boys found a babe on the railroad track, and as they were orphanage boys they brought it to the hospital.

On the Seoul-Pusan train to which we changed at Te Jun, was Sue Adams coming down to Pusan to meet Ned, returning from America and two new Evangelical Alliance men (TEAM), Thomas Watson and William Garfield, who are still exploring but have decided to locate in Seoul. I haven't been able to find out what particular activity Watson intends to engage in (he did radio work in Japan), but Garfield will specialize in literature. Both intend to work in the language instead of through interpreters.

What a joy it was to find that dear old Chang Si the cook, formerly the Ross' cook in Syen Chun, had prepared mandoo-kuk (dumpling soup) my favorite, with rice and kimchi. How I ate! Army food is tremendous these days with steaks, baked ham, and fried chicken regularly, but as delicious as that is, it is good to get back to rice and kimchi occasionally. This morning brought and early Pete Mitchell, Southern Presbyterian treasurer, turned up with his two year old son John. And what most significant history little Johnnie is making! For he is the first missionary child to be admitted to come over since the beginning of this "police action", and now that he has been permitted to come the other new, young couples of the different Missions who have been studying in Japan, are hoping to be able to get over with their children, too. More history, the Mitchells in travelling from Pusan to Kwang Ju will not take the miserable train trip of 24 hours, but will fly, a mere hour's trip. How this will interest the retired, early members of the Missions! A few more S.P. news items; Joe Hopper Senior is teaching in a colored college and expects to return to Korea with Mrs. Hopper next Fall. Florence Root is returning after a six months furlough. In the Chun Ju hospital the S.P.s. have a Norwegian nurse, Miss Astrid Kraakanes, who was a member of the Norwegian hospital staff sent to Korea under U.N. (formerly a China missionary), who instead of returning to Norway after her term of service, offered herself to the Missions and was snapped up by the Southern Presbyterians.

On my way downtown this morning, the first thing to attract my attention was the crowds lined up in front of the bank. Another financial crisis is upon us. You remember that a number of months ago the government cracked down on all traders who were exchanging money at any other than the ridiculously low rate of 6,000 to 1. All the Missions with their far-flung organizations and obligations to schools, hospitals, relief agencies, etc., were without funds. Well, we are in that fix again. The government has now required everybody to turn in his cash, and is releasing the new currency at greatly restricted amounts. Everything is tied up. Crowds were clamoring at the doors of the banks, with police trying to preserve order. Here at the house for a few days they were limited to canned salmon and other staples they had on hand, until some new cash was issued.